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Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

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Air Force wants $9M for divert airfield lease

» Request included in FY 2017 proposed budget sent to Congress

By DENNIS B. CHAN
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REPORTER

The Department of Defense needs some $9 million to lease or purchase 7.1 hectares of land in the Commonwealth as part of their planned divert airfield activities in the NMI, according to an U.S. Air Force fiscal year 2017 budget request package sent to U.S. Congress this month.

See AIR FORCE on Page 4

Solution to retiree payment delay now shifts to SNILD

By DENNIS B. CHAN
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REPORTER

The ongoing delay of the 25 percent pension payments to CNMI retirees now shifts to the hands of Saipan lawmakers who have scheduled an emergency session today, Tuesday, to appropriate money from annual casino license fees allocated to Saipan to pay this pension.

The Department of Finance had asked the local delegation last month for some $1.8 million, "preferably from the Annual License Fees paid to the Commonwealth as mandated by the Exclusive Gaming License and allocated to the" Saipan, according to a letter from Finance Secretary Larissa Larson to Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation chair John Paul Sablan (R-Saipan) last Jan. 15.

Finance's standing request was made nearly a month before the Settlement Fund returned a check last Friday from the administration of Gov. Ralph DLG Torres to pay the scheduled retiree pension, leaving thousands of retirees

See SOLUTION on Page 4

Off-island performers wow crowd in joint Lunar New Year celebration

By FRAULEINE VILLANUEVA-DIZON
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REPORTER

For the first time, the Lunar New Year was celebrated together by two associations on Saipan along with the Marianas Visitors Authority.

The Chinese Association of Saipan, CNMI and the Korean Association of Saipan joined forces to showcase their cultures and traditions as well as provide entertainment on island in last Saturday's joint celebration at the Paseo de Marianas.

"This is the first time we tied up with PDM Promoters and other cultural partners to do this and we're very happy and we're hoping that this could be added to many signature events," MVA managing director Perry Tenorio said.

"We're very happy that the Korean Association can actually bring all the community people together along with the Chinese Association. This is something new. This is very new for us to do something together," Gia Park of KAS said.

A traditional lion dance opened up

See OFF-ISLAND on Page 4

FRAULEINE VILLANUEVA-DIZON

A Chinese lady magician turns different colorful handkerchief into a handkerchief with a special greeting for her final act in last Saturday's joint Lunar New Year celebrations of the Chinese Association of Saipan, CNMI and Korean Association of Saipan. The second joint Lunar New Year celebration ushering the Year of the Fire Monkey will be next Saturday, Sept. 20.

See more photos on Page 8.

INSIDE

LOCAL

For more than 20 years, the Igitol couple has been celebrating Valentine's Day at Aqua Resort.

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BUSINESS

Japan's economy contracted at a worse than expected 1.4 percent annual pace last quarter.

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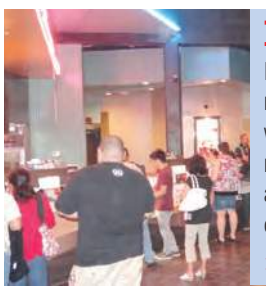

LIFE & STYLE

It used to be that I went to the movies and be entertained, which in Pinas simply meant a momentary escape from dusty and humid tropical existence, air-conditioned Never Netherland.

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Local

'13 opt-outs unintentionally paid 100 percent of pension'

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Thirteen opt-outs from the Settlement Fund were unintentionally paid a full 100 percent of their pension benefits, according to Finance Secretary Larrisa Larson.

The unintentional payment of 100 percent to opt-outs was among the issues discussed during Friday's emergency hearing in federal court.

U.S. District Court for the NMI designated Judge Frances Tydingco-Gatewood, however, agreed with the government that such disparity treatment of retirees was unintentional.

Attorney Margery Bronster, counsel in the class action filed by Betty Johnson, pointed out that the settlement agreement requires that if anyone gets 100 percent payment, all other retirees should get 100 percent.

In an interview, Larson said she's been sick for a couple of days and when she came in, Finance already released checks for the opt-outs or for those who opted out from the Settlement Fund agreement.

"So the opt-outs were paid a full 100 percent. So there is a need to rectify and pay the rest of the settlement class, the remaining 25 percent payment," Larson said.

Larson said that's the urgency of Friday's hearing because the government needs to treat everybody equally.

Larson said what they have been doing in the past is they always treat the opt outs equally to the settlement class.

The secretary said had she been informed that the Settlement Fund was not going to pay the 25 percent, then they would have withheld the payment for the 25 percent to opt-outs as well.

Larson

"But the news came to Finance late," Larson said.

The Settlement Fund received from Finance $632,052.71 last Wednesday to pay the 25 percent pension payment due Feb. 12, 2016.

Settlement Fund Trustee Joyce C. H. Tang informed Gov. Ralph DLG. Torres that same day that the Settlement Fund cannot continue to accommodate the government in distributing the 25 percent pension payments unless the government identifies a source income that can be used for this purpose or obtains a court order.

On Friday, Tang returned to Finance the $632,052.71, saying it comes from an unauthorized source.

In the interview, Larson pointed out that because of a clause in the settlement agreement that says that everyone should be treated equally, it is really critical that this payment for 100 percent go out.

"So it is top priority for the administration that we address the matter," she said.

Larson said it doesn't matter if 13 or one received 100 percent because the government should treat everybody equally.

Larson said for the 75 percent, it is in the budget so there is no question about that.

She said the 25 percent is for the government to find the funding, "which the government does."

Larson said right now the government and the Settlement Fund Trustee have a disagreement on the interpretation of the law.

Larson said they are going to discuss their different interpretations and come to a compromise.

She said when they come back to the next hearing they will show that they compromise or they don't agree, then the judge is going to make a decision for them.

On the issue that the there is no money available for the casino law fees paid by Best Sunshine International, Ltd. with which to pay the 25 percent pension payments for Fiscal Year 2016, Larson said that doesn't mean that the government is not going to get anymore. "We get the money every year from the casino. And we have alternative sources of funding. And that's what we have been doing. We are using alternative source of funding," she said.

In the budget law, Larson said, the governor is allowed to reprogram from other sources as he feels it necessary.

"And that's why there is a disagreement. They say we shouldn't and we say we can. We still of the opinion that we follow the law," she pointed out.

Larson said every 15 days they pay approximately $630,000 to $640,000 or $1.2 million to $1.3 milion a month just for the 25 percent. She said the 75 percent is always in the budget.

"Even before we set the limits for the government, we

See 13 on Next Page

MVA to give financial support to FestPac delegation

By FRAULEINE VILLANUEVA-DIZON
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REPORTER

The board of directors of the Marianas Visitors Authority has approved financial support for this year's CNMI delegate to the Festival of the Pacific, which will be held in Guam in May.

In a board meeting last Friday, the board and management discussed the request from the FestPac committee.

"They're requesting $50,000 from MVA to help defray the cost," MVA managing director Perry Tenorio said.

Among the discussions of the board is the need for further information on the requested budget.

While the board approved providing support, they wanted to get the number of delegates from each island, what types of art they are bringing with them, as well as actual breakdown of the cost.

They also wanted to know if chartering a flight from Saipan to Guam is more feasible and cheaper than booking different flights.

"As much information as they can give us, it would help tremendously," board chair Marian Aldan-Pierce said.

The board also added that they want accounting of the funds that will be used.

"And also we want an accounting of the funds at the end of the trip because too often we get asked for funds but we don't really see anything how the money was spent," Aldan-Pierce said.

After the discussions, the board voted unanimously to provide support.

"No check will be given to them unless we get the information that we want to see," Aldan-Pierce said, "The final approval still needs to come from the board."

"We're approving, in principal, support, pending additional information the board requested," Tenorio said.

According to the FestPac committee, they will need $180,000 for the delegation this year which will be comprised of 250 delegates from the CNMI, the largest number ever to join the festival otherwise known as the "Olympics of the Pacific Arts."

E-Land, other companies want arbitration on Torres' claims

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

E-Land World Co. Ltd., the majority shareholder of Coral Ocean Point Golf Resort, and three others who are being sued by attorney Vincent DLG. Torres, are asking the federal court to compel all his claims to arbitration before the American Arbitration Association.

E-Land World Co. Ltd., Micronesia Resort Inc., Suwaso Corp., and Kwang Won Seo, through counsel Richard W. Pierce, said the arbitrator should decide any dispute on Torres' claims.

Pierce asked the U.S. District Court for the NMI to dismiss Torres' lawsuit in its entirety.

In the alternative, Pierce said, the court should stay the lawsuit pending the resolution of the arbitral proceedings, if any, brought before the American Arbitration Association.

If the lawsuit is stayed, Pierce said, the parties should submit to the court a joint report as to the status of the arbitration proceedings.

Pierce said Torres is legally bound by the broad arbitration agreement in the Purchase and Sale Agreement of Capital Stock of Suwaso Corp.

The agreement, Pierce said, was executed on Aug. 23, 2012, and amended on Oct. 12, 2012, by Yusuke Fumoto, an individual residing in Japan, and Micronesia Resort Inc., an entity incorporated under the CNMI laws.

Pierce said Torres negotiated the agreement on behalf of Fumoto.

The agreement, he said, effectuated the transfer of a majority ownership interest in Suwaso Corp. from Fumoto to Micronesia Resort Inc.

Pierce said Fumoto, however, continues to be the record holder of a minority interest in Suwaso Corp.

Thus, Pierce said, the agreement is commercial in nature and not entirely between citizens of the United States, and is governed by the New York Convention on the Recognition and Enforcement of Foreign Arbitral Awards.

Pierce cited that Article 2 of the New York Convention declares that a court "shall, at the request of one of the parties, refer the parties to arbitration, unless it finds that the said agreement is null and void, inoperative or incapable of being performed."

Pierce said Torres' claims against defendants trigger the very broad, mandatory provision in the agreement that, according to

Torres' own complaint, he personally negotiated to make defendants his business partners to save his investment in Suwaso Corp. and to procure other benefits for himself and Suwaso's shareholders.

Pierce said unhappy with the agreement's aftermath, Torres filed the lawsuit against defendants and sought to resolve this international dispute by jury trial in the Superior Court.

Pierce said the agreement underlying Torres' claims, however, contains a sweeping arbitration clause that renders any judicial forum an improper venue.

Pierce recently filed the corporate disclosure statements for his clients—E-Land World Co. Ltd., Micronesia Resort Inc., and Suwaso Corp.

According to Pierce, E-Land World Co. Ltd. has no parent corporation.

Pierce said the Micronesia Resort Inc. is owned by non-party E-Land Park Ltd. and by Sompo Japan Nipponkoa Insurance Inc.

The lawyer disclosed that E-Land Park Ltd. owns a majority of Micronesia Resort Inc.'s shares, while Sompo Japan Nipponkoa Insurance Inc. owns the minority remainder of Micronesia Resort Inc.'s shares.

Pierce said Suwaso Corp. is owned by Micronesia Resort Inc. and by Torres and a non-party individual.

Pierce said the Micronesia Resort Inc. owns majority of Suwaso shares, while Torres and a non-party individual are the other shareholders of record.

The lawyer said no publicly held corporation owns 10 percent or more of the stock of any of the entities.

Torres sued E-Land World Co. Ltd., Suwaso Corp., Micronesia Resort Inc., and some of its current and former directors and employees for allegedly failing to provide a proper accounting, embarking upon a scheme to misappropriate business opportunities and funds, and negotiating loans over $5 million without proper authorization. The case was originally filed in the Superior Court.

The defendants moved to transfer the lawsuit to the U.S. District Court for the NMI.

Quitugua wants sholarships for high schools enrolled at college

By DENNIS B. CHAN
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REPORTER

Sen. Justo Quitugua (Ind-Saipan) wants scholarships made available to high school students who are also enrolled in the Northern Marianas College, according to a bill he introduced in the Senate last week.

Senate Bill 19-81 states that there are currently 81 students still enrolled at local public high schools who are taking college courses at the local college and that financial assistance should be made available to these students.

"These students are getting a head start on their college courses and should be encouraged and supported in their education endeavors," Quitugua's bill states. "The sooner these students graduate from college the sooner they can enter the CNMI workforce."

The bill amends local statute that establishes programs and criteria financial aid for education—such as grants, scholarships and loans—so that these are available to "full-time and part-time students enrolled at an accredited institution of higher education or trade institution in the CNMI or any part of the United States and high school students with dual enrollment at a high school and the Northern Marianas College."

The bill notes that over 40 percent of the CNMI government workforce are high school graduates and that encouraging high school graduates to pursue college is an "economic advantage" for the CNMI.

The bill stresses that—as the CNMI economy grows and recovers each fiscal year and new investors and businesses emerge—a shortage of U.S. citizen and/or permanent resident workforce remains.

The CNMI is constricted partly due to a local contract worker program that expires in 2019, which will leave "the CNMI without the requisite workforce" it needs to service the government and businesses on island, the bill states.

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From Page 2

set aside for retirement first and the bond. And after, that what tells us what's left for the agencies," she said.

Larson said they always pay the 75 percent and that they never missed the deadline.

She said the Settlement Fund trustee and Johnson's counsel worry that the government is not going to make the obligation to pay the 75 percent.

"But we always meet our obligation. This is our priority," she added.

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Historical sites also on Beautify CNMI's agenda

Cause-oriented group Beautify CNMI has also identified historical sites in the CNMI as another one of their concerns citing their importance to the island's culture.

Former representative Cinta Kaipat, with the help of Angelo Villagomez and other members of the community, is trying to revive Beautify CNMI in order to raise awareness on how to keep the islands clean and attractive both from local and foreign tourists.

Aya Matsumoto, another passionate community volunteer, had voiced the importance of the CNMI's historical and cultural sites in promoting history. She hopes that the community would preserve it.

Finding ways to preserve monuments, buildings, and other important places that have historical value in the CNMI is also being discussed by the group.

The monuments and other sites in the CNMI are part of the CNMI's history and are also tourist attractions especially to those who are into World War II memorabilia.

Villagomez, in an email to the individuals who attended the meeting early this month, said he had talked to Matsumoto regarding World Heritage Sites.

"I've learned that there is a draft proposal for listing the Mariana Trench on the UNESCO list of World Heritage Sites. This is a pretty big deal. It was written by someone in Hawaii, and Gen Cabrera helped with some of the data," said Villagomez.

The group also wants to educate the public not to vandalize establishments, historical monuments, and other cultural sites in the CNMI. They are hoping to have murals painted in some of the abandoned structures where school kids could participate.

Foreign divers must also be reminded to keep the seas clean and free from any marine debris that could damage the corals.

The group also planted two trees early this month at Oleai Beach to commemorate Beautify CNMI's first 10 years and to kick off their second decade of renewed commitment of service to the community. ***(Jon Perez)***

OFF-ISLAND

From Page 1

the variety of performances. which started around 6:30pm.

Performers from Beijing, China were brought in by CAS including a singer, an acrobat using a diabolo or a Chinese yoyo, and a traditional magician.

A magician who changes "face" or mask while dancing and performing on stage also wowed the crowd. She went around the crowd asking them to change her face which she does so in quick succession.

Kung Fu and Taekwondo were also highlighted during the program.

Other performances brought in by KAS included K-pop and a magician.

CAS director Rose Chan said she is happy for the opportunity to showcase their culture with the help of MVA and private companies.

"I'm happy because we can bring the Chinese culture here," Chan said.

Aside from performances, CAS also staged dumpling-making lessons on one of their booths.

"We just make some Chinese food. We bring in the parents from the Chinese school to teach dumpling-making. They can try how to make it and also taste or sample it and buy some to take home," Chan said.

With the huge crowd, both young and old, locals and tourists alike, who has come to enjoy the festivities, Tenorio noted the importance of celebrating different cultures.

"It's nice to see the community come out and support this, just reminding the people that we have a very diverse community and we should celebrate each culture," Tenorio said.

Week 2 of the joint Lunar New Year celebrations will be held on Feb. 20, also at the Paseo de Marianas.

SOLUTION

From Page 1

bereft of their expected payments.

The appropriation—set to be made today—is hoped to resolve the ongoing delay that has incited a blame game between Capitol Hill officials and a Settlement Fund that has questioned Torres' constitutional right to reprogram money for retirees on the basis that this serves no "public purpose."

The Fund is asking for an "authorized appropriation."

"[Fund Trustee Joyce] Tang's argument that the 25 percent is not deemed a public purpose is as it pertains to the governor's reprogramming authority under the budget law," Rep. Angel Demapan (R-Saipan) told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday.

Tang, according to a January letter to the governor, believes that Saipan was no longer in "a state of emergency" following Typhoon Soudelor last August, and declared that the most recent executive order extending Torres' emergency powers to reprogram money "is not appropriate."

"As for the 75 percent funds, those are funds appropriated within the general fund budget annually," Demapan went on to clarify, in responding to questions from *Saipan Tribune* in an email yesterday

"The 25 percent portion of retirees' pensions is appropriated by the SNILD through delegation funds sourced by the annual license fee," Demapan added.

The emergency delegation session today is at 1:30pm.

The delegation would be addressing the issue of funding for payment of 25 percent percent of pensions for retirees, Demapan said.

"The non-payment of retirees' 25 percent last week stemmed as a result of disagreements between the administration and the Settlement Fund regarding the use of funds provided," Demapan said. "In view of developments from Friday's hearing in District Court, it is important for the delegation to convene an emergency session to help rectify this issue and to ensure that retirees' benefits are not compromised any further."

AIR FORCE

From Page 1

The Air Force does not specify the exact location of the land needed for a desired long team lease—"in excess of 25 years"—according to their report; however, negotiations for the proposed lease involves the West Field Tinian Airport and is expected to begin this summer, *Saipan Tribune* learned.

"This project is the first installment of a larger land acquisition package to enable future beddowns to occur within the CNMI," the Air Force said in the budget report.

Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-Saipan), who shared the Air Force budget request in his newsletter, first broke the news last Saturday, two days after top Defense officials convened in a meeting with Gov. Ralph DLG Torres to announce that a "Tinian-only" option would be the military's "preferred alternative" for the divert airfield project.

The Air Force's "hybrid option" to use both Saipan and Tinian airports to lessen competing use conflicts between commercial and military tanker craft was found disagreeable with the Torres administration and the local ports authority.

Sablan on Saturday said the Air Force included $9,002,000 in its military construction budget request to lease 7.1 hectares of land—or 17.5 acres—in support of the divert activities and exercises initiative.

Sablan cites a Navy real estate survey to state that the cost to acquire the land by fee is $3.2 million.

"But…the Air Force is prepared to lease the property at a higher cost in order to conform to the Covenant agreement to acquire only the minimum real property interest necessary to meet mission requirements," Sablan said, citing the budget report.

This is not the first time the Defense Department has proposed a lease or purchase of land in the Commonwealth in recent years. The Department of Navy, for the Marine Corps Forces Pacific live-fire training project, has proposed a lease of the entire island of Pagan to support training inclusive of a bombing range on Mt. Pagan.

The last lease negotiations between the CNMI government and U.S. military involved the 1994 leaseback and 1999 partial release of leaseback rights over on Tinian, where two-thirds of land is leased to the military.

The cost to lease the desired land interest is about $1.13 million per hectare for a long-term lease versus $450,00 per hectare to acquire by fee, according to the Air Force budget report.

'More land a must'

In their budget, Air Force stressed the need for securing the desired land because the existing federally leased land in CNMI did not have the "land parcels required for" the divert airfield project.

"None of the projects that support the Divert and Exercise Mission within CNMI can be constructed" without the land, and initial operations also "cannot be achieved until these facilities are constructed, depriving the Air Force of this much-needed operational capability," the Air Force said.

"The Air Force is willing to purchase by fee if the CNMI government is willing to sell it," the Air Force added. "This project allows the NAVFACPAC to begin land acquisition discussions for the entire DOD requirement, with initial emphasis for the Air Force requirement. It is important to begin negotiations now and pursue a phased approach because land acquisition discussions could take 12 to 18 months to complete."

The Air Force has set the options of building on the north end or the south end of the Tinian airport.

Asked which end they would build on, Anthony Crutchfield, deputy commander of the U.S. Pacific Command, said last week that the "the indication is that the favored place—not a decision—would be the north."

"But there is a process," he told reporters, "we have to work through, a legal process…before a decision is made."

Competing use

For any future buildup at the Saipan or Tinian airports, the military and the ports authority would have to come up with an agreeable "airport layout plan"—expected to satisfy commercial concerns with military needs—to submit to the Federal Aviation Administration for approval.

The Air Force dropped fighter jets from their divert plans after scrutiny by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency over severe noise impacts to the local community, during an environmental impact process in recent years.

Commonwealth Ports Authority executive director Maryann Lizama looked toward the future, when sought for comment on the military's announcement of Tinian as its preferred location for the divert project.

"CPA has held its position in holding U.S. Air Force divert and all other military activities on Tinian," Lizama told *Saipan Tribune*. "This is in line with the board of director's decision through the board resolution two years ago as well as Gov. Torres' and Lt. Gov. Hocog's and their administration."

"We should be making headway from here forward." Lizama added.

Private businessman Alex Sablan, a former Saipan Chamber of Commerce president, said they had been a agreeable with the administration's and CPA's position that the divert project be placed on Tinian.

"It made the most sense to everyone," Sablan said in an interview last Thursday. "The Chamber was supportive of this effort" and "we are pleased they made the right choice.

Sablan believes CPA needs to look at the overall expansion of the Saipan airport as well as the Tinian airport.

He pointed to signatory bonds that airport concessionaries or airlines could be signatories on, noting this was how the original Saipan airport was built for some $17 million.

"You have 600 people coming in the wee hours every morning, basically wrapped around poles all the way down to Gate 4. And that's not right," Alex Sablan said, adding that the arrival cue only allows for 150 people, not the 300 as believed, when taking in concerns of airport security.

"It's taking three to four hours" for "three different flights that are coming in the wee hours of the morning. That is not a good first experience for any of our tourists or our returning residents," Sablan said.

If Tinian is able to sign on airlines to arrive on Tinian for direct flights, Sablan suggested that the Tinian airport approach expansion in the same way—by getting Chinese or other carriers going to Tinian to sign off on signatory bonds to expand the airport along with duty free or food vendors.

"You'd hope you'd use all those concession agreements to secure a signatory bond for the expansion of the airport and I would imagine Tinian needs to do the same thing," Sablan said. "They are going to need to be expanded [for] direct flights."

Port issues

Asked last Thursday if the shift in focus to Tinian would prompt the military to look to help repair the Tinian port, which is in tatters, Crutchield said, "this is something they can take a look at" but added he was not in a position to say they "will or will not do it."

"I think it's something we should talk about," Crutchfield said. "With this relationship [between the governor and himself as DoD's new single point of contact for military projects], it's something we can talk about and go from there."

"Our focus right now is on the military strategic nature of what we need for the Pacific Command and the security of the Pacific," he said.

For their part, the Department of Navy has highlighted a potential "conflict" with current development at the Tinian port and their military plans, calling these developments—specifically a casino resort built on the wharf—a possible "compromise" of their rights to the port and airport, according to a letter obtained from a Navy lawyer to the CPA last month.

However, the Navy later clarified that they did not see any existing conflicts with the lease and said they "merely communicated its desire" to make sure that "DoD interests are part of the planning process in existing and future leasing actions."

Until things ramp up with further Navy environmental impact documents and "ultimately what happens with" with these plans, Alex Sablan casted doubt on if anything will happen at the port.

"Obviously, we don't have the funding," he said. "I think everyone is relying on the idea that the military will come in and rehab that port facility. They have shown concerns recently about tenants in the port. We are hopeful they fix the port and that both Tinian's ports—the lifeline of their economy—are built to the satisfaction of all operators coming in." ***(With reports from Frauleine Villanueva-Dizon)***

CHCC ramps up its awareness campaign

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

KAMMER BEACH, Tinian—The Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. is ramping up its precautionary awareness campaign on all hazardous diseases like the Zika virus.

CHCC personnel, headed by Public Health and Hospital Emergency Preparedness Program director Warren Villagomez, also had a booth set up at the Kammer Beach grounds during last weekend's Tinian Hot Pepper Festival.

"[The Division of] Public Health [Services] is putting up an aggressive awareness campaign for all hazardous diseases. We have elevated efforts for emergency preparedness and community awareness in regards to all levels of infectious diseases," said Villagomez.

He added that they also stepped up their surveillance efforts not only for Zika but also to the dengue and chikungunya viruses.

The CHCC has already issued a health advisory in early February after the World Health Organization declared a "public health emergency of international concern" following the outbreak of the Zika virus in Brazil.

"We have stepped up our surveillance efforts with closed sharing of information with the other U.S. jurisdictions," said Villagomez.

"We also conducted an information campaign to educate the public on what precautionary measures to take in order to prevent the spread of the virus in the region," Villagomez added.

Babies in Brazil born from mothers who got infected by the Zika virus during their pregnancy, suffer from microcephaly resulting from the abnormal development of the brain.

There have been 30 reported cases of the Zika virus in the U.S. Territory of Puerto Rico as of Feb. 13, while Radio New Zealand reported that Tonga had already seven confirmed cases and has been monitoring 549 suspected cases as of yesterday.

Also, for two days, they conducted free flu shots to all local residents and an information campaign on what steps to be taken in order to prevent the spread of the virus.

"The flu shots are held in collaboration with the immunization program. This is a CNMI-wide immunization program. So we are encouraging everyone to get vaccinated," said Villagomez. "This a free vaccination and it is extended to Rota. It will be for the entire year."

Flu shots are being administered at CHC hospital's Immunization Clinic beside the Family Care Clinic, and the Tinian and Rota health centers.

JON PEREZ
Commonwealth Health Center nurse Hazel Lenteja, right, administers the flu vaccine to Tinian resident Nurul Amin during the 2016 Annual Tinian Hot Pepper Festival last Sunday at the Kammer Beach grounds.

Lions Clubs to hold annual health fair

By FRAULEINE VILLANUEVA-DIZON
frauleine_villanueva@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Lions Clubs International District 204 Region 2 will hold its annual health fair next month.

The event is scheduled on March 13 to be held at the Joeten Dai-Dai Social Hall of Mt. Carmel Cathedral in Chalan Kanoa from 8am to 12pm.

"The medical mission is an annual event that is part of the Region 2 Lions' community services," zone chair Mario Mayuga said.

Included in the services that they will provide free of charge are blood pressure tests, sugar or glucose tests, and vision screening and eye pressure tests.

Those who would like to take the sugar/glucose test should not eat at least six hours prior to the checkup.

The Lions Club will also distribute reading glasses on a first-come, first-served basis.

An information campaign for diabetes, cancer, and general health awareness will also be held.

The District 204 Region 2 is comprised of the Saipan Fil-American Lions Club, Saipan Marianas Lions Club, Saipan Unity Lions Club, Tinian Marianas Lions Club, and Rota Marianas Lions Club.

Aside from these, district officials from Guam headed by District governor Daniel Yang, Guam Marianas Lions Club, and other members are expected to join the medical mission, SFALC president Annamae Adaza said.

They are currently looking for support from the community. Donations of bottled water and food are also sought.

"Since we are still waiting for confirmation from our service providers, we are encouraging other health companies to join this medical mission," region chair Ladyvir Canape said.

For more information and for donations, the public may call Canape at 989-2545, Region 2 secretary Olive Yana at 233-3854, Mayuga at 285-1021, or Adaza at 483-5237.

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TO COLLECT PAYMENTS FOR COURT JUDGMENTS VS GOVT

House agrees with OAG's position to lobby, tax offset

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The House of Representatives has agreed with the Office of the Attorney General's position that persons with court judgments against the government can lobby to the governor and the Legislature and also avail of the tax offsetting program to collect payments.

House counsel John Cool said plaintiffs can request that the governor include the payment of their judgment in the chief executive's proposed spending plan.

Cool said the plaintiffs may also appear at any of the numerous public hearings held by the Legislature on the governor's proposed spending plan and request that the payment of their judgment be included in the appropriation act.

The House's counsel said the plaintiffs may also pursue alternatives to a cash settlement authorized by the statute such as "offsets and credits on any tax obligation or other obligations of the claimants or members of their immediate family."

Cool discussed the alternatives on how to collect judgments from the government in the House's response to Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho's order, setting a status conference to hear, among other questions, if there is any other mechanisms for plaintiffs Jotonia B. Aguon and Timothy Cruz to seek payment of their judgment against the government, in light of the repeated failure of the Legislature to appropriate for court ordered judgments.

The status conference will be held today, Tuesday, at 1:30pm.

In the government's response to Camacho's request, assistant attorney general David Lochabay stated that to get payments from court judgments against the CNMI government, persons can lobby to lawmakers or avail of tax offsets program. Lochabay said historically, persons with judgments and other claims against governments have lobbied legislatures for private bills to pay them.

In the House's response, Cool also stated that the court may have the authority to order the governor to include the payment of a particular judgment in the governor's proposed spending plan, or order a department or agency to include the payment of a judgment in their requests to the governor for funding.

"Such a ruling would be more in line with an order in aid of judgment as opposed to a declaration as to the unconstitutionality of the entire Appropriation Act," he said.

Cool said the Legislature cannot initiate annual appropriation acts on its own.

He said the annual appropriation by the Legislature is only part of the appropriation process.

First, Cool said, the governor submits a proposed spending plan (the budget) to the Legislature.

The governor's spending plan is based on the requests for funding by the departments and agencies funded by annual appropriations.

Before the Legislature can appropriate any funds, the governor must identify both the amount and the sources of funds, which the Legislature may appropriate.

On the issue of unbalanced budget, Cool said an order in aid of judgment is not the proper legal mechanisms with which to rule that the 2016 budget is unconstitutionally unbalanced.

Cool said the appropriate method to challenge the constitutionality of the 2016 Appropriation Act would be a taxpayer's right of action.

On the issue of reprogramming funds, the House counsel said ordering the governor to reprogram funds is not an option.

He said the NMI Constitution prohibits the governor from reprogramming appropriated funds without legislature's approval.

Cool also stated that there are no constitutional or statutory requirements that the governor's proposed spending plan provide for the payment of all liabilities of the government.

As to the question if the 2016 budget is unconstitutionally unbalanced, Cool said if the 2016 Appropriation Act were to be found to be unconstitutional, the government would be faced with enacting a new appropriation act.

He said before the Legislature can enact a new appropriation, the governor must identify the resources available for appropriation.

He said the resources would need to be sufficient to cover all operations funded by appropriations and all judgments against the government.

Aguon and Cruz are holding a $35,000 judgment against the government over the death of their child during delivery in 2012 at the Commonwealth Health Center.

Another claimant, Gorjonny Camacho, is holding a $10,000 judgment against the government for his medical malpractice lawsuit.

SITE VISIT CONTRBITED PHOTO

A team of international research and extension experts wrapped up their site visit as part of a comprehensive evaluation of Northern Marianas College-Cooperative Research, Extension and Education Service. In addition to meeting with college employees, the evaluation team met with stakeholders including farmers, ranchers, government leaders, educators, and more. The information from the program review will be used as CREES prepares its strategic plan for 2016-2020.

LibDay committee open to community's suggestions

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

The 2016 CNMI Liberation Day committee said they are open to suggestions and is encouraging the community to submit any of their ideas in order to improve ways on how the annual festival is celebrated.

Liberation Day committee chair Christopher Leon Guerrero and Skywalker Communications Group account director Sophia Alvarez said all proposals will be discussed by the group before making a decision on what program ideas could be used either for this year's celebration or the next.

Skywalker is again partnering with the Saipan Mayor's Office in this year's Liberation Day activities. They had already launched the slogan contest and applications are still available for candidates for the 2016 Royal Court.

"This is a community event, so we want to involve the community in the planning process. I'm sure new ideas would come up that could make a difference in the way we celebrate, that's why we are encouraging the people to participate," said Leon Guerrero.

"We're taking in proposals in advance and everything will be discussed by the committee. All programs and events are being planned. We have to top last year's celebration" added Alvarez.

The committee said that they are just a small think tank but they wanted to make this year's festivities another memorable one to all. The kick off of the month-long Liberation Day celebration is on June 10, and festivities will last until July 9.

Saipan Mayor's Office special assistant Henry Hofschneider said that plans of bringing back the Liberation Day carnival are up for discussion.

"Nothing is final yet but we're already reaching out to the vendors. We want to have a festive mood and more activities for the people to enjoy. We must all work together for another successful Liberation Day celebration," Hofschneider added.

Leon Guerrero said advanced planning also helps the committee, giving them ample time to make any adjustments on the events lined up for the celebration.

Applications for the float parade are also now available at the Mayor's Office. The float must reflect the theme on the survivors' way of life after the war. More details will be discussed and released by the committee in the coming days.

Those who are interested can email their suggestions to ldcccnmi@gmail.com.

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
RFP: RFP16-CHCC/CGC-001

SUBMISSION/OPENING DATE: MARCH 09, 2016 TIME: 10:00 AM

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COPIES OF THE RFP PACKET MAY BE PICKED-UP AT CHCC'S ACCOUNTING OFFICE LOCATED AT DR. JOSE T. VILLAGOMEZ CENTER, CHALAN HINEMLO ROAD, LOWER NAVYHILL SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE CHCC RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL PROPOSALS, AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTIONS IN ANY PROPOSAL, IF TO DO SO SHALL BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CHCC. ALL PROPOSALS SHALL BECOME THE EXCLUSIVE PROPERTY OF THE COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION.

/S/ ESTHER L. MUNA
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

/S/ JESUS BABAUTA
ACTING DIRECTOR OF P&S

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT
INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: ITB16-DLNR/DFW-057 (A) (B)

SUBMISSION/OPENING DATE: MARCH 10, 2016 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"BOAT CHARTER TRANSPORATION, A PROJECT UNDER THE DLNR-DIVISION OF FISH & WILDLIFE"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE PICKED UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENSION DRIVE, BUILDING NO. 1301, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE COMMONWEALTH RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS AND PROPOSALS; IN WHOLE OR IN PART, AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTION IN A BID IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS. ALL BIDS SHALL BECOME THE PROPERTY OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ RICHARD B. SEMAN
SECRETARY OF DLNR

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

MARIANAS VISITORS AUTHORITY
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
MVA-RFP-16-2331

For: ARCHITECTURE, ENGINEERING & LANDSCAPING DESIGN SERVICES ON For PASEO DE MARIANAS IMPROVEMENTS

Closing Date: March 14, 2016 Time: 3:00 p.m.

Submit sealed proposals to: Marianas Visitors Authority
P.O. Box 500861 CK
Saipan, MP 96950

Interested parties may pick up the scope of work at the **Marianas Visitors Authority** office between 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday to Friday, except holidays or by visiting the **MVA** website at www.mymarianas.com.

/s/ JAMES NELSON
MVA Vice Chair, Board of Directors

/s/ PERRY P. TENORIO
Managing Director

IN REQUEST TO WITHDRAW AS COUNSEL

Frink says Tinian Dynasty owners failed to fulfill obligation

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Citing irreconcilable differences, attorney Sean Frink of the Marianas Legal Strategy Group LLC has requested the federal court to allow him and his law firm to withdraw as counsel for the owners of Tinian Dynasty Hotel and Casino in connection with a lawsuit filed by over 500 current and former foreign workers.

Frink, his law firm partner Catherine J. Cachero, and MLSG asked the U.S. District Court for the NMI to issue an order allowing their withdrawal as counsel of record for Hong Kong Entertainment (Overseas) Investments Limited and Mega Stars.

According to Frink, HKE and Mega Stars have failed to substantially fulfill an obligation to MLSG regarding the law firm's services.

Frink said their irreconcilable differences make it impossible for MLSG to effectively represent HKE and Mega Stars in this lawsuit.

Frink said MLSG has given reasonable warning to HKE and Mega Stars that it will withdraw unless the obligation is fulfilled.

"MLGS has attempted in good faith to resolve these matters, to no avail," he pointed out.

Last October, due to delayed service of process, U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona dismissed without prejudice the lawsuit filed by Eric F. Dona and co-plaintiffs against HKE and Mega Stars Overseas Ltd.

Dismissal without prejudice means the workers can re-file the lawsuit. The workers, through counsel Samuel I. Mok, then re-filed the lawsuit.

In their lawsuit, the workers alleged that the owners and management of Tinian Dynasty lied to them about their immigration legal status.

The plaintiffs alleged in their lawsuit that the owners and management of Tinian Dynasty lied that they were legally authorized to work notwithstanding the denial of their CNMI-only Transitional Worker (CW-1) petitions.

Mok asked the court to preliminarily and permanently enjoin the defendants from terminating plaintiffs' employment or removing their name from an administrative appeal.

The lawyer moved the court to issue a declaration that HKE's statement that it was legally permissible for the plaintiffs to continue working even though the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services had denied their CW-1 petitions was false.

Mok requested the court to hold HKE and Mega Stars liable to pay them damages, court costs, and attorney's fees.

'Largest CNMI delegate' for FestPac seeks community support

FRAULEINE M. VILLANUEVA-DIZON

The organizing committee of the CNMI delegation to the Festival of the Pacific met last Friday at the Chamolinian Utt in Garapan. The festival is set from May 22 to June 4.

By FRAULEINE VILLANUEVA-DIZON
frauleine_villanueva@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The committee and delegates for the upcoming Festival of the Pacific met to discuss their participation and other requirements on the upcoming festival last Friday.

According to committee chair John Gonzales, this year will see the largest delegation ever from the CNMI with 250 individuals representing the Commonwealth in what is touted as the "Olympics of the Pacific Arts."

Gonzales said other islands, such as American Samoa, Federated States of Micronesia, and Hawaii, will only have 100 delegates.

The committee reminded the delegates that their commitment and participation is very important as they will be representing the islands among the rest.

This year, the FestPac committee will need a budget of $180,000 for their 17-day trip to the host country, Guam. The festival itself will be from May 22 to June 4.

Most of the budget will go to airfare as they are looking at chartering a plane, and to their Parade of Nations uniforms, other materials, as well as national gifts for each of the 30 participating nations.

"We have to have charter flights because there's 250 of us and Cape Air only has so many seats," Gonzales said.

According to Gonzales, they have reached out to the Legislature and the Marianas Visitors Authority, as well as some private companies, to provide part of their needs.

Each of the delegates and the group as one will also hold their own fundraising efforts.

For the first time, a non-profit organization for the FestPac will be established.

"The non-profit organization is critical in order to be the endowment arm of our efforts to preserve our culture, indigenous and contemporary culture. The government can only do so much. The non-profit is able to request, solicit for foundation funds and that's why it's critical to do that," Gonzales said.

He added that the organization will be there to provide continuity with regards to preserving culture.

"Thanks to the leadership of the Arts Council director [Angel Hocog] and the organizing committee, that again for the first time in history, we are able to charter that purpose as well as provide continuity in raising funds and providing resources so that we can tap our talented artists, elderly and the young ones to perpetuate the culture through cultural demonstration, classes and learning opportunities throughout the whole year, in between FestPac," Gonzales said.

Hocog called on the public to support the delegates especially in their fundraising efforts.

"If they see the official delegates coming to their door, support them. The money will be used for a great cause. I also wanted to thank the steering committee because they are putting up a lot of work," Hocog said.

The delegates will be featured in different local events prior to FestPac starting with the Thursday Street Market every week for the residents to have an awareness of what will the delegates be presenting on behalf of the CNMI.

"We're hoping to feature our official delegates beginning with the Flame Tree Arts Festival, Taste of the Marianas, also we're going to invite MVA to promote our delegation abroad in our off-shore marketing media and tourism partners," Gonzales said.

Small craft advisory until this morning

A small craft advisory is in effect through early Tuesday morning, according to the CNMI Emergency Operations Center.

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres is advising the general public and inexperience mariners, especially those operating smaller vessels, to avoid navigating in these conditions and take extra precautionary measures on entering and leaving harbors and inlets.

He added the public should avoid venturing into the water along exposed reefs and beaches especially those facing North and East exposures as rip currents will be life threatening.

Based on the information received from the National Weather Service in Tiyan, Guam, gentle to moderate winds are expected across the Marianas coastal waters through midweek and moderate to strong winds are again possible near the end of the week.

Combined seas of 8 to 10 feet will gradually diminish through early Tuesday morning when they are expected to subside to below hazardous

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
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Amendment No. 2

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION

NOTICE OF FUNDING AVAILABILITY OF COMMUNITY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT FUNDS FOR PROGRAM YEAR 2016

THIS ADVERTISEMENT IS PAID FOR BY NMHC WITH CPD FUNDS.

The Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, through the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) is announcing the availability of an estimated $1,219,232.00 in Community Planning and Development (CPD) funds available from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. NMHC anticipates receiving an estimated amount of $873,837.00 in Community Development Block Grants (CDBG); $278,365.00 in Home Investment Partnerships (HOME); and, $67,030.00 in Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) funds for Program Year (PY) 2016.

The CDBG funds, authorized under Title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, may be used for a wide range of community development activities to revitalize neighborhoods, provide affordable housing, expand economic opportunities, and improve community facilities and services. However, use of these funds must meet at least one of the national objectives which include: 1) to benefit low and moderate-income families; 2) to eliminate slum or blight conditions; or 3) to meet other urgent community development needs.

The CDBG program requires a grant recipient to certify that it will minimize displacement of persons as a result of activities assisted with CDBG funds. The CNMI government does not plan on undertaking any activity which will cause displacement of person. In the event of any unforeseen displacement resulting from any CDBG funded activity, the CNMI government will comply with the requirements of the Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1970, its implementing regulation and applicable local law.

HOME funds may be used to create affordable housing through financing assistance, site acquisition or improvement, and rehabilitating existing residential dwellings as well as providing funds for new construction or purchase of a single family residential dwelling. Use of HOME funds must benefit low-income families.

ESG funds may be used to rehabilitate or convert to buildings into homeless shelters and for shelter operating expenses, supportive services and homeless prevention and rapid re-housing activities. Use of ESG funds must benefit the homeless.

Applications for the use of CPD funds are available for pick up at the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) located in Garapan, Saipan; San Jose Village, Tinian; and, Songsong Village, Rota, beginning December 21, 2015. You may also obtain the application via our website at www.nmhcgov.net.

Applications must be submitted to the NMHC Offices in Garapan, Saipan (Saipan Residents); San Jose, Tinian (Tinian Residents); and, Songsong Village, Rota (Rota Residents) by ~~***Friday, March 25, 2016***~~ ***Monday, March 28, 2016, no later than 4:30 p.m. Applications submitted after*** ~~***March 25, 2016***~~ ***March 28, 2016, will not be accepted.***
(note: March 25, 2016 is a CNMI Holiday)

A briefing will be conducted for interested applicants and for those applicants who have picked up an application for the use of CPD funds. The briefing will address the program requirements and regulations concerning the usage of CPD funds.

The schedules for briefing are as follows:

- ***Saipan: February 16, 2016, 6:00 p.m. at the NMHC Conference Room located in Garapan, Saipan.***
- ***Tinian: February 17, 2016, 6:00 p.m. at the NMHC Field Office located in San Jose, Tinian.***
- ***Rota: February 19, 2016, 6:00 p.m. at the Mayor's Office Conference Room located in Tatachog, Rota.***

We are encouraging all non-profit, for profit, and government service providers who are providing services to people with disabilities, homeless individuals, and emergency shelter administrators and operators to attend this briefing.

Accommodations for disabled individuals or other non-English speaking individuals who wish to attend the briefing are available upon request by giving at least 24 hours notice prior to the meeting so that such needs can be arranged and provided. Additional inquiries, concerning the CPD program, may be directed to Ms. Zenie P. Mafnas, Deputy Corporate Director or Mr. Jacob Muna, Planner/Environmental Officer at 234-7689 or 234-6866.

/s/ Jesse S. Palacios
Corporate Director

By FRAULEINE VILLANUEVA-DIZON
frauleine_villanueva@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Aqua Resort holds for the first time *Valentine's buffet*

As an appetizer a shot of Bloody Mary with oyster was served to the guests.

FRAULEINE VILLANUEVA-DIZON

For more than 20 years, the Igitol couple has been celebrating Valentine's Day at Aqua Resort.

Pete and Mathilde Igitol said they love spending dinner nights in Aqua Resort especially during the special day for lovers and couples because they feel like they're home.

"We go here because it's a place where we can relax, friendly atmosphere, and we really enjoy ourselves," Pete said, "Couples come here, they enjoy, no pushing, no need to hurry."

Unlike the Igitols' over two decades of dining, however, last Sunday's dinner at Ra Raina for Valentine's Day was something new. Instead of a sit down, fine dining dinner, a buffet was set up for the guests.

According to Marie Ann Razon, ARC assistant food and beverage manager, this is the first time that they offered dinner for Valentine 's Day.

"For how many years, Aqua Resort has been known for holding fine dining for Valentine's Day. This is the first time that we had a buffet," Razon said.

"We just want to try and see what the outcome is and actually it is the idea of our executive chef to try something new," she added.

Despite the buffet setup, servers of Ra Raina served guests' initial items.

"So that the couple can still have a little moment to themselves, we served them appetizers and main course first," Razon said.

For the appetizer, a cocktail shot of Bloody Mary with fresh oyster was served.

"That was the first that we served to everybody," Razon said.

It was followed by the main course, which is the Certified Angus Beef Captain's Cut Prime Rib.

Over 40 other items were made available to the guests via the buffet table, which includes their carving station featuring lamb shawarma with condiments and pita bread, and baked whole salmon in sea salt meringue and tomato pesto remoulade among others.

The eight items under entrees include pork hocks, tilapia fillet with cranberry butter and asparagus in orange ginger salsa, and chicken brochette with forest mushrooms

For seafood, they also served crab legs with mignonette sauce, poached shrimps with cocktail sauce, and green mussels with chimichurri sauce aside from the sashimi and sushi items.

Eleven items were served for dessert including white chocolate raspberry cheesecake, mascarpone strawberry cupcake, and assorted valentine cookies.

"To cater to the occasion, our pastry chef made different than usual desserts," Razon said.

Free flowing wine and beer were also served with the help of ARC's sponsor, MarPac.

Razon said they had reservations of over 100 as opposed to when holding fine dining where they can only accommodate around 60 people.

The dinner buffet is much more cost friendly for the guests also as it is priced at $45 per person as opposed to their four or five-course meal which is about $60 and above.

Razon said they are targeting more of the younger generation to try the dining experience at their hotel.

"I can see we have more of the younger generation," Razon said, "We are trying to get that kind of market and at the same time accommodate the older market."

Razon said another usual customer that they have didn't want to do the fine dining this year and was thinking of going to another restaurant. However, when they knew that it was buffet, they went ahead and made their usual reservations.

Razon said they might continue with the buffet dinner next year, but they will still do add in extras for the guests like serving them special items per table.

FRAULEINE VILLANUEVA-DIZON

Pete and Mathilde Igitol have been spending their Valentine's at Aqua Resort for over 20 years.

FRAULEINE VILLANUEVA-DIZON

Young couples are the generation targeted by Aqua Resort Club this year as they offer buffet dinner for Valentine's Day.

A violinist serenades dining couples.

FRAULEINE VILLANUEVA-DIZON

FRAULEINE VILLANUEVA-DIZON

Special desserts and pastries were served for the occasion by ARC's pastry chef.

2016 Lunar New Year Celebrations

PHOTOS By FRAULEINE VILLANUEVA-DIZON

Kids scurry to the stage to get lucky charms pulled out from a magic tube by a lady magician from China, one of the performers at the Lunar New Year celebrations last Saturday at the Paseo de Marianas. The event was organized jointly by the Chinese Association of Saipan, CNMI and the Korean Association of Saipan.

A "face changing" performer dances on stage.

For her finale, a Korean lady magician turns a wet napkin into confetti.

The face changer reveals her true face

With a different face or mask on, the performer goes around the crowd to reveal another one of her faces.

The Chinese Association of Saipan had a dumpling-making booth at the festival.

A Chinese dancer performs a traditional dance for the crowd. The second week of the joint Lunar New Year celebrations will be held on Feb. 20.

Young Koreans feature and sell their traditional food.

Korean Taekwondo moves were showcased by young Koreans.

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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The Associated Press | Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Scalia pushed the court to the right. Will Obama have the chance to push it back?

The unexpected death of Antonin Scalia ends the long and consequential career of a powerful, intellectually gifted, caustic, conservative thinker who influenced not only the Supreme Court but also the nation—occasionally for good, more often for ill.

In his rulings and writings, the former law professor and Justice Department official did much to rehabilitate the approach to constitutional interpretation he called "originalism"—the debatable notion that the Constitution should be interpreted according to the meaning attached to its provisions at the time they were adopted. He had scorn for the idea of a "living Constitution," which he saw as promoting rigidity, not flexibility, in the law.

"My constitution is a very flexible one," Scalia said in a speech at Princeton University in 2012. "There's nothing in it about abortion and since there isn't, it's up to the citizens. Things change by democratic choice. The Supreme Court doesn't have to abolish the death penalty. If the feelings of society come against it, it will be abolished by the states."

That approach sometimes led him to decisions that bolstered individual rights, including freedom of speech, the privacy of the home and the right of criminal defendants to confront witnesses against them. It's sometimes forgotten, for instance, that he joined liberal justices in protecting the right to burn the American flag as a political protest.

But he was unwilling to recognize fully that some of the Constitution's guarantees are couched in broad terms—such as "liberty," "due process of law" and "equal protection"—that must be adapted by the courts to changing times. Thus Scalia opposed Roe vs. Wade, the decision upholding a woman's right to choose abortion, and he rejected, often in offensive language, the notion that equal justice under law also applies to gays and lesbians. Thankfully, he was unable to persuade a majority of the court to agree with him on those two issues.

When he dissented last year from the court's landmark decision recognizing a right to marriage for same sex couples, Scalia insisted that the substance of the court's ruling "is not of immense personal importance to me"—a disclaimer that was hard to take seriously. In that case, as in others, Scalia's political and social conservatism seemed to shape his legal arguments. Indeed, especially in his later years, his increasingly sarcastic comments in writing and from the bench seemed to echo the rhetoric of radio talk show hosts.

The list of subjects on which we disagreed with him is enormous. He will no doubt be remembered for his intellectual gifts and his irrepressible personality, but he was also part of a 5-4 conservative majority that gutted the 1965 Voting Rights Act, established an individual right to bear arms under the 2nd Amendment and ruled in the Citizens United case that corporations had a right to spend unlimited amounts to influence elections. He opposed affirmative action, supported the death penalty, defended putting crosses on public land and ve-

See SCALIA on Page 11

Gordon

By JAIME VERGARA
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Jaime Vergara previously taught at SVES in the CNMI. A peripatetic pedagogue, he last taught in China but makes Honolulu, Shenyang, and Saipan home. He can be reached at pinoypanda2031@aol.com. All views expressed by the author are his/her own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion and stance of the Saipan Tribune.

The name is Gordon Harper, a friend at '79 (Scalia of the Supreme Court in yesterdays column was also '79) who died Feb. 8. Diagnosed with leukemia September, he expected to end his existence within a year. He lasted four months.

This reflection is not about the historic particulars of Gordon, spacetime occupied and roles played. Nor how he affected other people (he did, many), including his supportive wife Roxane who stayed in the background. As a group facilitator, like his colleague Joe Slicker who at 96 finally drew the curtain also this week, he worked with individuals and groups to assist articulate vision, identify contradictions, push practical proposals, and decide on a course of action, after a consensus for a group and cognitive discourse for an individual.

I remember Gordon '77 as a staff member in the HDTI (Human Development Training Institute) in India, Nava Gram Prayas, to create new communities. In the plateau of Maharashtra outside of Aurangabad where the relics of history are carved in the Ellora and Ajanta caves, I journeyed to learn of their construct only to find out that whatever they had on their plates emerged collegially from heads butting against each other around a table, that conceptually, I was already on the ground with the methodology and material.

Gordon took the four-year BA program of his academic background and constructed University 13, a 13-week design. A movement waited to be triggered in India, and we had a generic construct ready to be filled with flesh and blood.The construct got transformed into the HDTI. In the same fashion, I returned to the Philippines with the construct to "just do it."

I did, on Mactan Island among in Sudtonggan village, with the Dick and Linda Alton family and resident staff. Gordon assisted the HDP, a Human Development Project already on the ground with the language of the new glocality for participants. Success in numerical achievement, or awards from the Rotary Club, or recognition from the Chamber of Commerce, was not the agenda. In Maliwada onward, as far as career went, I no longer had any. I learned to just go do whatever I knew needed to be done, to ignore the judgment, critique, and expectation of society and history, but work in and through them.

We called it HDTS, a school targeting 24 villages in Mactan, built a training school in Sudtonggan and invited villages around Langub HDP north of Davao City in Mindanao, by a geo-thermal plant in Camarines Sur, and oil drilling in Palawan.

I told time by watching Gordon mix his 5-pm gin-and-tonic, sniffing the waft of a cherry smelling pipe as he lit up in the afternoon. A Baptist minister, I never understood how he could get away with his habits (I was an ordained Methodist cleric) until I realized that not all Baptists were created equal! Nor Methodists for that matter! Gordon was a pedagogue par excellence. I sat under the smell of his smokes while he kept his gin-tonic routine to himself without encouraging others to join him.

Since Gordon announced his leukemia (with Scalia and Slicker), I reflected about the facticity of my aging. At 70, I turned into a "clutch," dropping things on the floor, finding it difficult to get back up again. The leg calves cramp at night; I make a restroom run several times before sunrise. Brain cells freeze on recall.

I taught SVES six graders in the previous decade; recognize former students but don't remember names. Many staff offices in the Community College where I go to arrange to teach a few courses for the next term. Familiar but older face behind a desk invariably greets me, smiling like it was only yesterday when they came to elementary school.

I get into the car to drive to the store, and when I get there, I forgot what it was that I drove there for. I connect to the Internet and do not remember what email I needed to send. I am busy at my dwelling everyday, with many indications of things that got started but nothing accomplished at the end of the day.

I picture Gordon nodding his head on all of these, raising a twitch-like lift on one side of his mouth, finger his goatee without letting on that he probably went through this part of aging in the last ten years. Like Gandhi, he had playfulness about him on life's serious matters.

We won't go into "eternity" as I don't think Gordon delved into that much. One of my students last year asked, "Are you an atheist?"after my spiel on the "here-and-now"; another responded: "You've not been listening. He just wants everyone to know he is totally responsible for the 86 years of his existence."

I imagine how Gordon spent his last moments. He grimaced at the terminus, welcomed the friend. The end cometh, it says. Gordon lived his life. The review of its fullness is finished, outrospection done, he introspects. With a beatific smile plastered on his face, he dies his death. As the old metaphor exuded: Glory, Hallelujah, praise be! To Scalia, Slicker, and Gordon.

Rediscovering true love this Valentine's

By RYAN T. ANDERSON
The Philadelphia Inquirer

Ryan T. Anderson is the author of "Truth Overruled: The Future of Marriage and Religious Freedom."

Love is in the air this Valentine's Day. But that doesn't mean that marriage and family are flourishing. A mistaken understanding of romantic love—the Hallmark and Hollywood version—has, unfortunately, undermined key aspects of committed marital love, and the consequences have been dire.

Fifty years ago, Daniel Patrick Moynihan issued his famous report on the black family. He pointed out that births to single mothers in the general population were in single digits, but in the black community were approaching 25 percent. Today, 40 percent of all Americans, 50 percent of Hispanics, and 70 percent of African-Americans are born to single moms. These children have done nothing wrong and, frequently, these mothers have done nothing wrong—they're often the only ones to take responsibility and care for the kids—but something has gone wrong. And these children, women and entire communities suffer as a result.

Gays and lesbians, obviously, are not to blame for this. Heterosexuals are. Heterosexuals who bought into a flawed ideology about sex and marriage. That ideology is the offspring of the Sexual Revolution. Its slogans—love makes a family, marriage should last as long as the love lasts—have helped fuel the high rates of nonmarital childbearing and high rates of divorce that plague our nation.

"Love equals love" was simply an extension of this mistaken view of marriage.

The problem is that U.S. Supreme Court Justice Anthony Kennedy has enshrined this understanding of marriage into our Constitution. The reality, of course, is that our Constitution is silent on what marriage is. It is also silent on the good argument that marriage is—and needs to be recognized as—the permanent and exclusive union of husband and wife, so as many children as possible will be raised by their mother and father.

But without any basis in the Constitution, the Supreme Court this past summer forced every state in the union to redefine marriage, and to do so on the basis of a bad theory of marriage. This will lead to the further breakdown of marriage in America. After all, how can we insist that fathers are essential now that the court has redefined marriage to make fathers optional?

And how will the court limit the reach of its decision from extending to other forms of consenting adult romance? After all, if love equals love, why deny marriage equality to three-person committed relationships—"throuples," as they're now called. And why should wedlock be permanent—consenting adults can choose a "wedlease," a temporary marriage license.

If marriage is simply about Hallmark-style romance, then it's hard to see why it should be permanent, or exclusive, or monogamous. Such marital norms are founded on sexual complementarity, because when one man and one woman unite as one flesh and create new life, it is that one man and one woman who should, for a host of beneficial reasons, be bound to that child as its mother and father throughout life. So the consequences of this further redefinition will simply exacerbate our current problems.

It will also cause problems for those who seek to live out the truth about marriage in a new legal environment. Orthodox Jews, Roman Catholics, evangelical Christians, Latter-Day Saints, Muslims, and other citizens of faith and reason should not be punished by the government if they seek to resist this new vision of marriage, and ask simply to be free to live their lives in accordance with their belief that marriage is the union of husband and wife.

Yet there are countless examples of government punishing adoption agencies, bakers, florists and photographers because of their views on marriage. And there is pressure for government to go after religious schools next.

None of this should take place. Whether you agree or disagree with the Supreme Court's decision, there is no reason for the government to coerce people into helping to celebrate a same-sex wedding against their conscience. The court has mandated states to grant same-sex couples marriage licenses, but that doesn't mean the government needs to punish people who live their lives in accordance with what America had always believed about marriage.

One of our biggest social problems today is absentee dads. Faith-based charities and schools are doing amazing work in helping people cope with this problem and make improvements for the future. They shouldn't now be hindered in their work by a government imposing its new sexual orthodoxy on them.

This Valentine's Day we should acknowledge that not all loves are the same. In a pluralistic society where we disagree about love, we shouldn't be punishing our neighbors. How loving is that?

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Airport temper tantrums

I have flown Delta business class to Japan several times over the last few months. I have been angered at Delta's policy to forbid use of its business class lounges to Saipan ticketed passengers.

I have written to Delta about this, asking why such a policy exists and why they don't have a pop-up so advising you when you book online.

Other than to advise me that, "we are sorry that you feel you have been discriminated against on the basis of your race," an issue I never raised, their customer relations department will not answer the questions. Why are all of my adult temper tantrums in airports?

Randy Fennell
Via email

SCALIA

From Page 10

hemently dissented in the case that ruled Obamacare's individual mandate constitutional.

These were wrongheaded positions that in many ways damaged the country, especially in recent years when Scalia was part of a clear conservative majority. His death puts that majority in jeopardy, which is why replacing him is certain to be a politically contentious process. All the more so in a wild and unpredictable presidential election year, when both Republicans and Democrats are sure use the vacancy on the court to inflame the passions of their political supporters.

Republicans are already arguing that the choice of Scalia's successor should be left to the president who will be elected in November. "The American people? should have a voice in the selection of their next Supreme Court justice. Therefore, this vacancy should not be filled until we have a new president," Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell of Kentucky said in a statement.

That is an irresponsible position. Leaving a Supreme Court seat vacant for a significant part of two court terms just because the president is in his last year of office is cynical and transparently partisan, founded on the hope that the election will deliver a Republican president who'll pick a more conservative jurist than President Barack Obama would.

For his part, Obama said Saturday that he will fulfill his constitutional obligation to offer a qualified nominee to fill this vacancy "in due time." And the Republican-controlled Senate has an equal obligation to give that nominee full, fair and expeditious consideration—and an up-or-down vote.

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Obama soft-stepping in Syria doesn't move Putin

By TRUDY RUBIN
The Philadelphia Inquirer

Trudy Rubin is a columnist and editorial-board member for the Philadelphia Inquirer.

Vladimir Putin seems to be the only leader who knows what he's doing in Syria.

While the Obama team was desperately pursuing a diplomatic solution to the conflict, Putin was busy with more practical matters: cementing his proxy Bashar Assad in power by military force. Backed by indiscriminate Russian airpower, Syrian troops and foreign fighters trained by Iran have nearly encircled Syria's second-largest city, Aleppo, a key rebel base. At Thursday's talks in Munich, the United States, Russia and other powers agreed on a vague "cessation of hostilities"—not a formal ceasefire—that supposedly will take place in a week. This will secure Assad's military gains.

It's easy to imagine the message the Russians will convey to the United States and its NATO and Gulf allies in the coming days: Accept Russian terms for a Syria deal, meaning Assad remains indefinitely in power and the U.S.-backed opposition stands down. Or else Europe can expect an unending flood of Syrian civilians escaping siege, starvation and barrel bombs.

Does President Obama have a plan B? Or will he effectively acquiesce to Putin with a secret sigh of relief—never mind the dangerous consequences for Europe and the fight against the Islamic State? The answer will soon become clear.

It's easy to understand why most Arabs believe—although it's untrue—that the administration has made a deal with Moscow. The president's policy has reached a dead end.

Obama has insisted for four years that Assad must go. But he never seriously aided secular Syrian rebel groups, a course all his top security officials advised back in 2012, when it might have been possible. Instead, the White House handed the task to the Saudis, who armed Islamist jihadis.

Obama ignored his own red line against Assad's using chemical weapons, then let Putin save him from embarrassment with an inadequate deal to remove the weapons. The president also ignored the Islamic State's rise in Syria for far too long, and was caught flat-footed when Russian forces moved into Syria last fall. Since then, the White House has clung to false hopes that Moscow might join the fight vs. the Islamic State or cooperate in the search for a diplomatic solution. For Putin, diplomacy was only a cover while he changed facts on the ground.

To his credit, Secretary of State John Kerry understood the need for a more muscular U.S. policy—such as a no-fly zone along the Syrian border—to give Washington leverage at the bargaining table. But the White House had endless excuses for avoiding further involvement.

Recognizing Obama's reluctance, the Russians have blatantly ignored U.N. Resolution 2254 (for which they voted), which calls for permitting humanitarian aid to besieged Syrian civilians. The Russians call anyone who opposes Assad a terrorist and are trying to destroy every rebel group except the Islamic State. This will enable Assad to present a binary choice between himself and the Islamic State. But the Islamic State must be permitted to survive to sustain this claim.

These Russian positions ensured the collapse of U.N.-brokered peace talks earlier this month before they formally started. Thursday's Munich meeting was supposed to monitor the talks but instead focused on getting aid to the new flood of refugees.

Kerry is now reduced to hoping the Russians will see the light and agree to a cease-fire. But Putin will no doubt hold off until Aleppo is completely besieged. And he will likely charge a high price for letting in humanitarian aid.

After all, it is to the benefit of Assad—a member of the Alawite (Shiite) minority—to ethnically cleanse Sunni civilians from areas once held by the rebels. Moreover, Putin and Assad will be happy to see a new migrant flood make life harder for the Europeans.

The refugee situation is growing worse by the day. I spoke by phone with Christy Delafield in Gaziantep, Turkey, a representative of Mercy Corps, a nonprofit that has been doing incredible work getting aid to 500,000 hungry and displaced people in Aleppo and surrounding towns. She described thousands of people fleeing on foot toward the Syrian-Turkish border on dangerous roads, then sleeping in the mud, as Mercy Corps tries to deliver food kits, tarps, and blankets. So far, Turkey is keeping most refugees out, but the pressure is growing.

The worsening Syrian catastrophe will put the spotlight on Obama. It is probably too late to effectively help splintered Syrian opposition groups. But capitulation to Putin—with some cover story that enables Assad to stay on indefinitely—won't resolve the Syrian conflict or help end the Islamic State threat. Instead, it is likely to drive thousands of embittered Sunni youths into jihadi arms, whether inside Syria or elsewhere.

At minimum, the administration should get real about Putin and stop expecting him to respect humanitarian law. That isn't the way the game is played in Moscow.

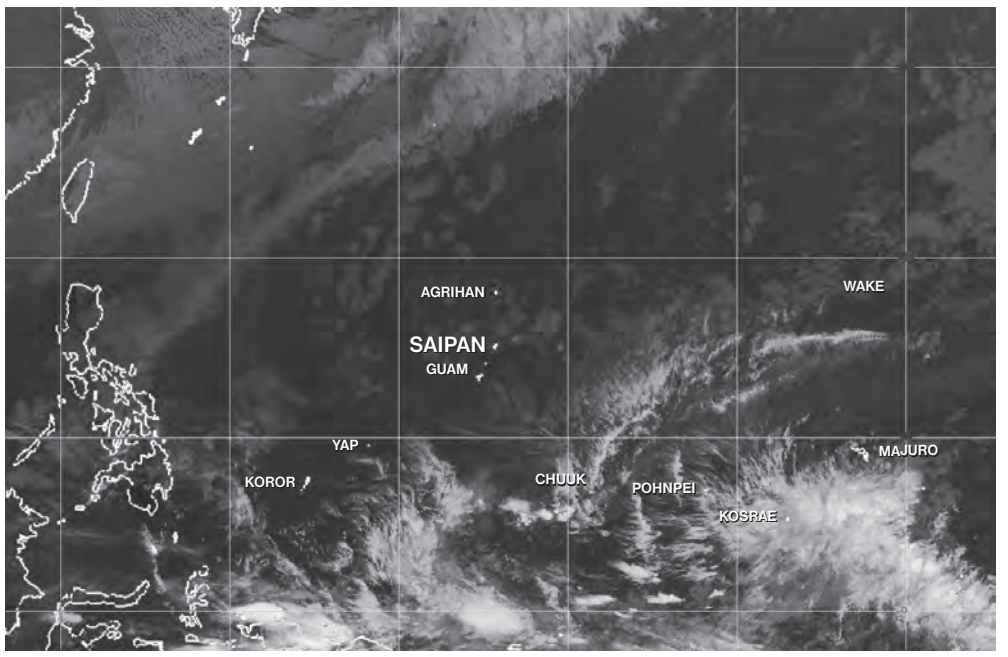
So far, Russia is not losing men or much treasure in Syria. The Syrian tragedy is a case study in the failure of soft power to move authoritarian rulers without hard-power backup. Putin will only respect international norms if the other side pushes back against his maneuvers, and Obama has yet to convince him that he has something to lose.

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Partly cloudy with a slight chance of light showers. Northeast winds 10 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy wih isolated showers.
▲86º ▼75º	▲86º ▼75º	▲86º ▼75º	▲86º ▼75º	▲86º ▼75º

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 12:55 PM, MONDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 2016
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A cold front extends southwestward from 25N139E to beyond 130E at 20N. Extensive cloudiness and patchy showers are found northwest of the frontal boundary to beyond 25N. A shear line runs west-southwestward from 14N180 to east of Chuuk at 8N155E then curves southwest to 5N146E. Cloudiness and scattered light showers are found along and up to 400 miles northwest of this boundary east of Chuuk. Scattered showers are found southwest of Chuuk within 50 miles of a line from 7N143E to 5N149E to Chuuk. A circulation centered near EQ147E is generating scattered showers southeast of Yap between 6N and the equator from 138E to 145E. A trade-wind disturbance is triggering scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms over Kosrae state and south of the Marshall Islands over Butaritari and Tarawa atolls between 7N and the equator from 158E to 174E.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

Micronesia

Guam And Rota	Showers	▲83	▼76
Palau	Partly Cloudy	▲87	▼76
Yap	Partly Cloudy	▲86	▼76
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲84	▼79
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	▲85	▼79
Kosrae	Showers	▲83	▼80
Majuro	Mostly Cloudy	▲84	▼80

Around the Globe

Auckland	Showers	▲76	▼69
Beijing	Sunny	▲50	▼24
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	▲62	▼57
Honolulu	Showers	▲79	▼68
London	Mostly Sunny	▲48	▼35
Los Angeles	Sunny	▲88	▼59
Manila	Partly Cloudy	▲87	▼72
Melbourne	Cloudy	▲71	▼61
Miami	Thundershowers	▲81	▼63
New York	Rain	▲55	▼37
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	▲47	▼34
Paris	Mostly Sunny	▲44	▼33
Pusan	Sunny	▲48	▼31
Rome	Partly Cloudy	▲58	▼46
Salem	Cloudy	▲61	▼46
San Francisco	Mostly Sunny	▲74	▼57
Seoul	Sunny	▲43	▼26
Tokyo	Mostly Sunny	▲54	▼35
Washington, DC	Rain	▲52	▼34

NMI CRIME STOPPERS
Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:
- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

Tides

Saipan Harbor

2:35 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.5 Feet
7:46 AM	Today	Low Tide:	1.0 Feet
1:30 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet
9:07 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.0 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:42 AM	6:21 PM
Wednesday	6:41 AM	6:21 PM
Thursday	6:41 AM	6:21 PM
Friday	6:40 AM	6:22 PM
Saturday	6:40 AM	6:22 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	12:41 PM	12:50 AM
Wednesday	1:34 PM	1:47 AM
Thursday	2:28 PM	2:42 AM
Friday	3:22 PM	3:36 AM
Saturday	4:15 PM	4:26 AM

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 24, 2016

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA2924	4:15am	5:05am	Daily
UA2922	8:40am	9:30am	Daily
UA2921	1:30pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7 via Rota
UA2920	2:20pm	3:10pm	2, 3, 6
UA2928	6:05pm	6:55pm	Daily
UA2926	9:50pm	10:40pm	Daily

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

UA2921	1:30pm	2:05pm	1, 4, 5, 7

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)

UA2921	2:35pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL297	4:20pm	7:10pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ626	2:10am	6:00am	1
OZ626	2:50am	6:40am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ628	3:50am	7:40am	Daily
7C3403	4:35am	8:20am	Daily
7C3401	4:30pm	8:25pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:10am	6:20am	4, 7

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764	1:30am	5:30am	1, 3, 5, 7

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6

SAIPAN-HANGZHOU (HGH)

MU7162	5:10am	08:00am	2, 6

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ626/701	2:10am	11:15am	1 via ICN
OZ626/701	2:50am	11:15am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA2924/191	4:15am	9:00am	3, 6 via GUM
UA2924/PR111	4:15am	9:20am	1, 2, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA2922/183	8:40am	9:30pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA2922/183	8:40am	9:50pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA2922/193	8:40am	11:10pm	2, 5 via GUM-ROR
UA2921/183	1:30pm	9:30pm	5 via Rota-GUM
UA2921/183	1:30pm	9:50pm	1, 4, 7 via Rota-GUM
UA2920/183	2:20pm	9:30pm	2 via GUM
UA2920/183	2:20pm	9:50pm	3, 6 via GUM
UA2920/193	2:20pm	11:10pm	2 via GUM-ROR
UA2926/191	9:50pm	7:20am+1	1, 6 via GUM

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

OZ626/721	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ628/721	3:50am	12:50am	Daily via ICN
UA2922/159	8:40am	10:35pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
UA2921/159	1:30pm	10:35pm	1, 5 via Rota-GUM
UA2920/159	2:20pm	10:35pm	3, 6 via GUM

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA2923	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
UA2925	7:15am	8:05am	Daily
UA2921	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA2920	12:10pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6 via Rota
UA2927	4:45pm	5:35pm	Daily
UA2929	8:30pm	9:20pm	Daily

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)

UA2920	12:10pm	12:45pm	2, 3, 6

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

UA2920	1:15pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL298	10:35am	3:10pm	Daily

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3402	10:10am	3:30pm	Daily
OZ625	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
OZ625	8:20pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
OZ627	9:30pm	2:50am+1	Daily
7C3404	10:10pm	3:30am+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

OZ607	9:00pm	1:50am+1	3, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763	4:30pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6, 7

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5

HANGZHOU (HGH)-SAIPAN

MU7161	10:00 pm	5:30am	1, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA190/2929	9:55am	9:20pm	2, 6, 7 via GUM
UA190/2929	10:00am	9:20pm	3 via GUM
OZ702/625	12:30pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/625	12:30pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
OZ702/627	12:30pm	2:50am+1	Daily via ICN
PR110/UA2925	10:05pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
UA192/2920	10:20pm	1:50pm+1	2, 5 via GUM-Rota
UA184/2925	10:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/2921	10:55pm	1:00pm+1	3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/2920	10:55pm	1:50pm+1	1 via GUM-Rota
UA184/2927	10:55pm	5:35pm+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/2929	10:55pm	9:20pm+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/2925	11:59pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via GUM
UA184/2920	11:59pm	1:50pm+1	2, 5 via GUM-Rota
UA184/2927	11:59pm	5:35pm+1	2, 5 via GUM
UA184/2929	11:59pm	9:20pm+1	2, 5 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
OZ724/627	2:20pm	2:50am+1	Daily via ICN
UA116/2925	10:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
UA116/2921	10:55pm	1:00pm+1	3, 6 via GUM
UA116/2920	10:55pm	1:50pm+1	1, 5 via GUM-Rota
UA116/2927	10:55pm	5:35pm+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
UA116/2929	10:55pm	9:20pm+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; 7C: Jeju AirETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
6:30AM	6:45AM	Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
12:30NN	12:45NN	Daily
1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily
9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
12:00NN	12:15NN	Daily
1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO ROTA

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
7:45AM	8:15AM	Mon, Tues, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
4:00PM	4:30PM	Mon, Tues, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat

ROTA TO SAIPAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
8:30AM	9:00AM	Mon, Tues, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
4:45PM	5:15PM	Mon, Tues, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat

Deleon Guerrero receives NMC's Academic Advisor of the Year

In recognition of her commitment and service to providing quality service and mentorship to students, Velma C. Deleon Guerrero was recently awarded the "Academic Advisor of the Year" award by the Northern Marianas College.

This is the first time the college has presented the award, which aims to honor the work of academic advisors who provide guidance to students in a variety of areas, including course planning, registration, academic counseling, and familiarizing students with campus resources like tutoring services or career services.

The award selection was based on student nominations and the selection process was done by the academic advising committee composed of staff members.

"Ms. Velma is a very helpful advisor who takes very well into consideration the needs of others. She's helped me sail through college life more smoothly. For that, I am extremely thankful for her," said NMC student Mae Ann Grace Velena.

"Ms. Velma is always there when students need her. She is very open to my ideas and encourages self confidence in her students," added Angel Ray Guerrero, also an NMC student.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Velma Deleon Guerrero (center, holding plaque), surrounded by colleagues and Northern Marianas College students, was recently awarded NMC's Outstanding Academic Advisor of the year.

Prior to becoming the Liberal Arts program coordinator at the Northern Marianas College, Deleon Guerrero taught as a classroom instructor at Mount Carmel School from Fall 2002 through Spring 2008 and taught as an adjunct instructor in NMC's School of Education from Fall 2006 through Spring 2008. In Fall 2008, she took on a full-time instructor position in the School of Education until Fall 2011 when she agreed to serve in her current position at NMC, overseeing one of the College's largest academic programs.

As the Liberal Arts program coordinator, Deleon Guerrero has helped to enhanced tools and processes for registration and academic advising and has focused on increasing enrollment, graduation rates, and transfer rates in the program.

She earned her post-secondary degrees at NMC, including an Associates of Arts Degree in Liberal Arts, a Bachelors of Science Degree in Elementary Education. Deleon Guerrero also possesses a Master of Education degree from Framingham State University, which was completed through the College's Community Development Institute.

Throughout her career as an educator, Deleon Guerrero has volunteered her time in several extra- and co-curricular areas, including honor societies, drama, and speech. In particular, Velma has worked on accreditation committees for all divisions of the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC), namely, the Accrediting Commission for Schools (ACS), the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges (ACCJC), and the Accrediting Commission for Senior Colleges and Universities (ACSCU).

Deleon Guerrero is the proud mother of Victoria Ann, William Blake, and Mary Shelley, and has been happily married to Galvin Deleon Guerrero since 2001. ***(PR)***

Strike Group sailors to volunteer during port call

ASAN, Guam—Volunteers from the John C. Stennis Strike Group (JCSSG) will take part in several community projects during a port call in Guam Feb.15-16.

While on island, hundreds of sailors from the aircraft carrier USS *John C. Stennis* (CVN 74) and the guided-missile destroyer USS *Mobile Bay* (CG 53) will volunteer their time at schools and various organizations as a way to give back to the island community.

- Sailors from *John C. Stennis* and Carrier Air Wing Nine (CVW-9) will participate in the following community service projects:
- Island Girl Power—Sailors will assist in preparing an area for the organization's community garden project Feb. 15-16 from 9am to 2pm.
- Dededo Mayor's Office—Sailors will assist with beautification projects in the village Feb. 15 from 10am to 4pm in preparation for the Festival of Pacific Arts.
- Wettengel Elementary School—Sailors will conduct classroom presentations and join students during the school's Chamorro Language and Traditional Arts program. Sailors and staff members will also team up to paint various exterior walls at the Dededo campus Feb. 16 from 8am to 2pm.
- Marcial Sablan Elementary School—Sailors will team up with staff members to paint six bathrooms and assist with grounds maintenance at the Agat campus Feb. 16 from 1pm to 4pm.

Sailors from *Mobile Bay* will participate in the following community service projects:

- Guam Memorial Hospital (GMH)—Sailors will assist GMH staff with painting walls and beautification projects for the island's only public hospital Feb. 15 from 9am to 2pm.
- Guam Animals in Need (GAIN)—Sailors will assist GAIN staff in cleaning the facility and will socialize with shelter animals Feb. 15 from 9 am to 1pm.
- Simon A. Sanchez High School—Sailors will participate in intramural games with students at the Yigo campus Feb. 16 from 9am to noon.
- F.B. Leon Guerrero Middle School—Sailors will coach student athletes Feb. 16 from 12:20pm to 1:30pm in preparation for the Special Olympics.
- JCSSG consists of the *John C. Stennis* with Carrier Air Wing 9 and Destroyer Squadron 21 embarked; guided-missile destroyers USS *Stockdale* (DDG 106), USS *Chung-Hoon* (DDG 93), and USS *William P. Lawrence* (DDG 110), and the *Mobile Bay*. ***(PR)***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Twelve NMC students and staff pose with the $30,000 check awarded through Asian Pacific Islander Scholarship Fund AANAPISI Program in the college's Board of Regents conference room. Left to right standing, Dean Leo Pangelinan, director of Financial Aid Daisy Manglona-Propst, Merly Ann Fernandez, Jennifer Dela Cruz, Clarice Arriola, Francine Nakazato, Jade Mangubat, Faith Rose Ansay, acting president David Attao, and Vaetootoo Failauga. Left to right seated, Isapen Bokuku, Kathleen Ann Laurio, Omor Khan, and Beda Mundo. On the TV, Melissa May, Program Assistant at Asian and Pacific Islander American Scholarship Fund (APIASF). Not pictured is Molena Barbara MacDuff.

$30K in scholarships awarded to NMC students

Northern Marianas College has announced that 12 deserving students have been awarded the Asian American and Native American Pacific Islander-Serving Institution (AANAPISI) Scholarship.

The Asian American and Native American Pacific Islander-Serving Institution (AANAPISI) Scholarship program, sponsored by the Asian Pacific Islander American Scholarship Fund (APIASF), is a collaboration with AANAPISIs and the communities they serve to provide scholarships, expand institution capacity and mobilize local resources to help foster economic development, as explained in the organization's website.

"The AANAPISI Scholarships will provide much-needed financial assistance for NMC's students as they pursue their educational goals," said NMC acting president David Attao. "We congratulate the recipients of this scholarship and all their hard work. We also express our deepest appreciation to the Asian Pacific Islander American Scholarship Fund for all the opportunities they provide for our students to gain access to higher education."

We would also like to invite the scholarship recipients, as well as other students to participate in Project Proa, which will be launched at the Northern Marianas College very soon," Attao added.

The recipients for the scholarships are: Faith Rose Ansay, Clarice Arriola, Isapen Bokuku, Jennifer Dela Cruz, Vaetootoo Failauga, Merly Ann Fernandez, Omor Khan, Kathleen Ann Laurio, Molena Barbara Macduff, Jade Mangubat, Beda Mundo, and Francine Nakazato.

Each student will receive $2,500 that can be used for tuition, fees, housing, local transportation, books, and allowable expenses for the Spring 2016 semester.

According to APIASF's website, applicants for the scholarship must be full time students in a degree-seeking program and be of Asian and/or Pacific Islander ethnicity. Applicants must be citizens, nationals, or legal permanent residents of the United States.

The organization's website also states that the Coca-Cola Foundation, Educational Testing Service, General Mills Foundation, Hilton Worldwide, Honda, USA Funds, Walmart Foundation, and Wells Fargo support the APIASF AANAPISI Scholarship Program.

"Our vision is to see that all Asian American and Pacific Islanders have access to higher education and resources that cultivate their academic, personal and professional success regardless of their ethnicity, national origin or financial means," APIASF's mission states. ***(PR)***

FOR DEBIT CARD FRAUD, AGGRAVATED IDENTITY THEFT

Mail thieves sentenced to 34 months, 12 months in jail

United States Attorney for the Districts of Guam and the Northern Mariana Islands Alicia A.G. Limtiaco announced that Jon Michael Mapote Villena, 29, of Mangilao, and Annalin Marie Perez Aldan, 20, of Dededo, were sentenced on Feb. 12, 2016, before District Judge Alex R. Munson, in the U.S. District Court of Guam.

Villena received 34 months imprisonment with a three-year supervised release term. Aldan received 12 months and one day imprisonment with a three year supervised release term. The pair was also ordered to pay over $12,000 in restitution to their victims and ordered to forfeit proceeds of their crimes. Their sentences follow convictions for access device fraud and aggravated identity theft.

In June and July 2015, Villena and Aldan, engaged in a crime spree, burglarizing several United States Post Offices in Guam. The defendants stole undelivered United States Mail from over 30 different post office boxes. A First Hawaiian Bank MasterCard debit card belonging to a postal customer was among the items of stolen United States Mail. Villena and Aldan then used that debit card to purchase goods, including Apple electronics, at local and national retailers all over Guam.

Limtiaco stated, "The United States Attorney's Office, along with our law enforcement partners, will vigorously pursue those who vandalize and obstruct the operations of the United States Postal Service. We will also aggressively pursue and prosecute those who would victimize the residents of Guam through identity theft."

This incident was investigated by the United States Postal Inspection Service. The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Mohammad Khatib. ***(PR)***

MCS salutes NSDA, NJSDA winners

Congratulations to the following students who competed in the Jan. 22-23 meet of the National Speech & Debate Association (NSDA) and National Junior Speech & Debate Association (NJSDA):

NSDA

Attao, Alyssa
DUO (with Paraiso, Joannie), IMP, PO & PR

Camacho, Gary M.
DUO (with Irang, Maverick)
PR M
1st Place – IMP C
2nd Place – OO C

Cunanan, Erika
PO
3rd Place – DI B
4th Place – PR MA
5th Place – IMP C

Irang, Maverick Deniel M.
DUO (with Camacho, Gary)
PRM
2nd Place – ST A

Javier, Cathryn Jane
2nd Place – COM
2nd Place – IMP A
2nd Place – PRM B
3rd Place – LD

Manglona, Thomas Lee II A.
1st Place – LD
1st Place – USX
1st Place – IMP A
4th Place – PO MA

Melchor, Jeff Matthew
DUO (with Moran, Matt)

PR
4th Place – DI A
4th Place – IMP B

Moran, Matt Jason B.
Duo (with Melchor , Jeff)
4th Place – IMP C
5th Place – PO MB
5th Place – PR MA

Paraiso, Joanie
Duo (with Attao, Alyssa)
ST & PO
2nd Place – DI B

Ramirez, Reica Jucel
1st Place – OO C
3rd Place – IMP C
4th Place – PO MB
4th Place – ST A

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Mt. Carmel School's National Junior Speech & Debate Association members pose for a group photo.

Snodgrass, Nathaniel
1st Place – IMP B
2nd Place – USX
3rd Place – COM
5th Place – PRMB

Toskas, Jonelle
PO
1st Place – CH PO
4th Place – PR MB
5th Place – DUO (with Usi, Monica)

Usi, Monica Aira
2nd Place – OO B
3rd Place – PO MB
5th Place – DUO (with Toskas, Jonelle)

NJSDA
Bucalig, Francesca IMP, PO, PR
Cunanan, Nathanael HI, ST, PR
Guerrero, Izabel Extemp, Dec, IMP, PR
Javier, Lleyton Andre IMP, PO, PR

Borja, Kalea Lou
2nd Place IMP C
4th Place OO A
3rd Place PO MC

Bucalig, Fiona
IMP, DUO (with Schweiger, Theresa)
4th Place PR A

Marcelo, Bernard Angelo A.
PR, IMP
2nd Place HI B
4th Place PO MB

Salvador, Vince Philip D.
1st Place PR MB
3rd Place DI A
5th Place HI B

Schweiger, Theresa
IMP, DUO (with Bucalig, Fiona)
3rd Place PR A

Ham, Jim Michael
PO
4th Place IMP C
4th Place Extemp

Thanks to our volunteer (voluntold) judges, Ms. Zenaida Borja, Mr. John Del Rosario, Mr. John Hernandez, and Mrs. Luz Baldazo.

NSDA/NJSDA Coordinators:
Mrs. Filmah Buenaflor & Mrs. Tobed Smith

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Mt. Carmel School's National Speech & Debate Association members pose for a group photo.

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Happy FOURzen birthday Keanalise Arianne! May the good Lord bless you with many more years to come! May your everyday be filled with lots of joy, love, and happiness! We love you! From the family!

Lawmaker sets up playground equipment in San Vicente, Koblerville

The Office of Rep. Roman C. Benavente put up playground equipment at the San Vicente basketball court area and Koblerville children's park (across Tottotville).

The playgrounds include swings, slide, loveseat, teeter-totter, and merry-go-round. These playgrounds were built to accommodate the children of the villages and to promote healthy activities for children and their families, especially after school.

Benavente would like to thank Construction Materials Supply for their donation of manufactured sand that was used for the play area, and Ramon B, Camcho for initially clearing the Koblerville Children's Park.

For more information, call Rep. Benavente at 287-3515. ***(PR)***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Rep. Roman C. Benavente and his staff put up playground equipment at the San Vicente basketball court area and Koblerville children's park.

Business

Japan's economy contracts in latest setback for Abe policies

TOKYO (AP)—Japan's economy contracted at a worse than expected 1.4 percent annual pace last quarter as Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's lavish stimulus policies failed to counter anemic consumer demand and sluggish exports.

The preliminary data released Friday, which may be revised, shows the world's third-largest economy stumbling again after a 1.3 percent expansion in the July-September quarter. The economy shrank 0.4 percent in the October-December quarter from the previous quarter.

Despite the lackluster report, Tokyo's main share index, the Nikkei 225, jumped 5 percent to 15,615.84 Monday, helped by a weakening in the Japanese yen and Friday's rally on Wall Street.

The latest contraction, the second in 2015, adds to worries that Abe's strategy for reviving the economy through inflation fueled by massive monetary easing is failing. The slowdown in China, one of Japan's biggest export markets, has been a further hindrance.

Japanese officials have expressed concern over recent market gyrations. The expectation in Tokyo is that a meeting of finance ministers of leading industrial nations next week in Shanghai might help restore some balance to markets that have been out of kilter since China began tweaking its foreign exchange policies in August.

Japan's central bank has already resorted to imposing negative interest rates on some bank deposits it holds to help spur more lending, though cash-rich companies appear generally uninterested in borrowing.

Growth also has been stunted by slow increases in wages, which leave households less inclined to spend. Companies are still drawing down excess capacity built up during decades of fast growth, and have held back on domestic investments, viewing their shrinking and aging home market as less attractive than other faster growing economies in Southeast Asia and elsewhere.

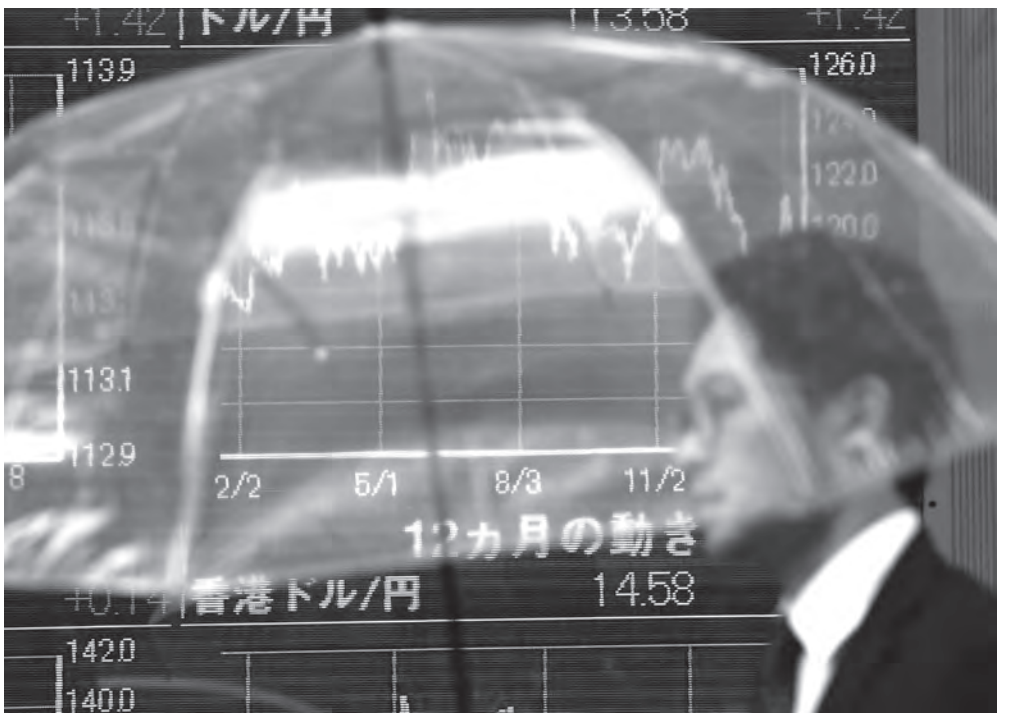
Consumer demand fell more than expected in the last quarter, dipping to a four-year low, offsetting moderate growth in business investment, said Marcel Thieliant of Capital Economics. He expects consumer demand to perk up in coming months, in anticipation of a sales tax hike, to 10 percent from 8 percent, in April 2017.

"However, this should be short-lived, as activity will almost certainly slump once the tax has been raised," Thieliant said. "The upshot is that the Bank of Japan still has plenty of work to do to boost price pressures."

Masamichi Adachi of JP Morgan questioned the preliminary data, which contradict other recent signs of resilient demand. "The fourth quarter decline in consumption is very, very odd against the improvements in other indicators," Adachi said, citing warm winter weather and relatively few consecutive public holidays as possible factors.

He said a 1.4 percent jump in corporate spending was surprising and may reflect businesses upgrading outdated equipment.

Despite the zigzags in growth last year, the economy eked out a 0.4 percent expansion in 2015, better than the flat-lining of 2014. But that pace of growth falls far short of the expansion needed to achieve Abe's goal of a 600 trillion yen ($5.3 trillion) economy by 2020.



AP

A man holding an umbrella walks by an electronic stock board of a securities firm in Tokyo, Monday, Feb. 15, 2016.

Iran exports first oil shipment to Europe since nuclear deal

TEHRAN, Iran (AP)—Iran says it has exported its first crude oil shipment to Europe since it reached a landmark nuclear deal with world powers, the official IRNA news agency reported Sunday.

IRNA quoted Deputy Oil Minister Rokneddin Javadi as saying the shipment was the first in five years and marked "a new chapter" in Iran's oil industry.

He did not elaborate but IRNA said several western tankers have loaded Iran's oil in recent days.

Iran plans to add one million barrels to its oil production following implementation of the nuclear deal, which lifted international sanctions in exchange for Iran restricting its nuclear activities.

Iran expects an economic bonanza after the lifting of sanctions, which will allow it to access overseas assets and sell crude oil more freely.

Javadi said Iran has already reached agreement to export oil to France, Russia and Spain.

The country used to export 2.3 million barrels per day but its crude exports fell to 1 million in 2012. Iran's total production currently stands at 3.1 million barrels per day.

In order to retake its market share, Iran said in January that it will add to its production despite the drop in prices and should not be blamed for the further price drops. Iran's regional rival Saudi Arabia is OPEC's largest producer.

In November, Tehran unveiled a new model of oil contracts aimed at attracting foreign investment in anticipation of the lifting of sanctions. Iran has sweetened the terms of the new model, hoping to bring in $30 billion in new investment. The new contracts last 15 to 20 years and allow for the full recovery of costs. The older model contracts were shorter term and investors complained of heavy risks and losses.

After review, HSBC decides to keep headquarters in London

LONDON (AP)—International bank HSBC said Sunday it has decided to keep its headquarters in London after considering a move to Hong Kong in response to tougher U.K. banking regulations.

In a statement, the bank said that London was a global financial center, "and home to a large pool of highly skilled, international talent. It remains therefore ideally positioned to be the home base for a global financial institution such as HSBC."

A headquarters move would have been a huge blow to Britain's Conservative government, which wants to retain London's status as a global financial power.

The bank said the board's decision had been unanimous.

Chief executive Stuart Gulliver said "having our headquarters in the U.K. and our significant business in Asia Pacific delivers the best of both worlds to our stakeholders."

Europe's largest bank by market value, HSBC announced last year that it was reviewing the location of its headquarters.

The bank has been steadily shifting its center of gravity toward the fast-growing Asian economies. It has suffered a series of regulatory fines and crackdowns in Europe and the U.S. and wants to capitalize on Asia's rapidly expanding class of newly wealthy.

It also has warned of the economic risks facing Britain if the country opts to leave the European Union in a referendum that is due by next year, and complained about the cost of a levy that the British government put on banks after the 2008 global financial crisis.

British Treasury chief George Osborne announced in last year's budget that the bank levy would gradually be reduced.

Britain's Treasury said HSBC's decision was "a vote of confidence in the government's economic plan, and a boost to our goal of making the U.K. a great place to do more business with China and the rest of Asia."

Regain control of autonomous worker

YOUR OFFICE COACH

By MARIE G. MCINTYRE
Tribune News Service

Marie G. McIntyre is a workplace coach and the author of "Secrets to Winning at Office Politics."

Q: Whenever I try to instruct one of my employees, he becomes argumentative and insists on doing things his own way. If I attempt to explain why certain procedures must be followed, "Tom" continues to press his point until I finally get frustrated and end the conversation. Later, I usually find that he has completely ignored my directions.

Tom is a relatively new employee, so he doesn't have enough knowledge or experience to make informed decisions. Nevertheless, sometimes I just tell him to do whatever he wants, because I don't have time for these lengthy disagreements. How do you handle someone like this?

A: Tom may be an unmanageable upstart, but you have unwittingly become his enabler. By participating in pointless arguments and allowing your instructions to be ignored, you have clearly shown Tom that, regardless of what you may say, he will ultimately be allowed to do as he pleases.

Your first objective, therefore, is to regain control of this situation. Having previously abdicated your leadership role, you must now "declare the dawn of a new day", which simply means telling Tom in no uncertain terms that his oppositional behavior will no longer be tolerated.

For example: "Tom, I have previously been much too lenient about letting you ignore required procedures. From now on, you are expected to follow directions, even if you disagree. I will be glad to answer legitimate questions about your work, but I'm not going to engage in debates. If you continue to disregard instructions, you will receive a performance warning. But if you show you can be trusted, perhaps you can be given more autonomy."

For this approach to work, you must take two additional steps. First, before sitting down with Tom, review the problem with your manager and request support for your plan. Before any serious performance discussion, you need to be sure your boss will back you up.

Second, having delivered this warning, you absolutely must follow through. So the next time Tom begins to argue, which he undoubtedly will, firmly remind him of the previous conversation, then immediately end the discussion. To be sure he doesn't wander off track, check his work regularly and refuse to accept any deviations.

If Tom gets the message and becomes more compliant, you can gradually loosen the reins. But if he stubbornly continues his defiance, you must keep your word and initiate formal corrective action.

Q: For the past two years, I have worked with a reputable employment agency that sends me out on temporary assignments. Each of these projects has lasted several months. Now, when I apply for full-time positions, I get turned down for interviews because my resume shows too many short-term jobs. How can I fix this problem?

A: Fortunately, this issue can be resolved with a quick resume revision. Instead of listing each temp assignment as a separate job, simply show the agency as your employer for the entire two-year period, then list the individual projects under that position. This not only keeps you from looking like a job-hopper, but also paints a more accurate picture of your recent work history.

Nation

Scalia's death means loss of key vote in divided cases

WASHINGTON (AP)—Justice Antonin Scalia's death deprives conservatives of a key vote that could change the outcome in some major Supreme Court cases, including one in which labor unions appeared headed for a big defeat.

Next month's Supreme Court arguments in a clash over contraceptives, religious liberty and President Barack Obama's health care law also now seem more likely to favor the Obama administration.

Those are the most immediate effects on the court of the loss of its conservative icon and longest-serving justice.

It's a firm Supreme Court rule that decisions are not final until they are handed down. So nothing Scalia did or said in pending cases matters to the outcome.

"The vote of a deceased justice does not count," veteran Supreme Court lawyer Roy Englert said Sunday, a day after Scalia was found dead in his room at a west Texas ranch.

AP

The hearse which transported Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia's body to the airport from Sunset Funeral Home departs the Atlantic Aviation hangar at El Paso International Airport in El Paso, Texas, Sunday, Feb. 14, 2016.

Subtracting Scalia's vote from cases in which he was in the majority in a 5-4 split leaves the result tied, four a side.

The remaining eight justices have two options in that situation: They can vote to hear the case a second time when a new colleague joins them or they can hand down a one-sentence opinion that upholds the result reached in the lower court without setting a nationwide rule.

A second round of arguments seems less likely at the moment because a new justice may not be confirmed until the next president is in office.

A tie vote, by contrast, resolves the case at hand and allows the legal issue to return to the court at a later date when there is a ninth justice.

Public sector labor unions had been bracing for a stinging defeat in a lawsuit over whether they can collect fees from government workers who choose not to join the union. The case affects more than 5 million workers in 23 states and Washington, D.C., and seeks to overturn a nearly 40-year-old Supreme Court decision.

Now, what seemed like a certain 5-4 split, with the conservatives in the majority and the liberals in dissent, instead looks like a tie that would be resolved in favor of the unions, because they won in the lower courts.

"That's a big loss. It was all teed up and it looks like it's not going to go anywhere now," said Brian Fitzpatrick, a Vanderbilt University law professor who once served as a law clerk to Scalia.

Another case in which there now seems little chance of finding a court majority to upset long-standing practice involves a conservative challenge to the way governments have drawn electoral districts for 50 years.

The court heard arguments in December in a case from Texas on the meaning of the principle of "one person, one vote," which the court has said requires that political districts be roughly equal in population.

But it has left open the question of whether states must count all residents, including noncitizens and children, or only eligible voters in drawing district lines.

Who Obama might nominate to replace Scalia on Supreme Court

WASHINGTON (AP)—Republicans are near-unanimous in demanding that President Barack Obama leave it to his successor to nominate a candidate to fill the Supreme Court seat of the late Justice Antonin Scalia. But the president insists he plans to come forward with a nominee—and that there's plenty of time for the Senate to weigh in.

That sets up what could be an epic election-year clash between Obama and Republicans who say they'll refuse to vote for his nominee, who could reshape the court for decades to come.

So who will Obama pick?

The White House had prepared for the possibility of liberal Justices Ruth Bader Ginsburg or Stephen Breyer retiring—but less so for a sudden vacancy of one of the court's staunch conservatives like Scalia, said a former administration lawyer with knowledge of current White House planning. Now the White House is scrambling to put together a "short list" of candidates to be fully vetted, said the former official, who requested anonymity to discuss private conversations.

The biggest question facing Obama: whether he and his team feel there's any realistic chance they can persuade Republicans to allow a vote.

If the answer is yes, Obama would have to try to find a perfect candidate with enough appeal to Republicans to change their minds. A sitting senator or someone recently confirmed might do the trick.

If the answer is no, Obama could try to use his selection to political advantage in this year's elections by nominating someone who would spark backlash if Republicans oppose him or her. Picking a minority or someone from a battleground state in the election could rile up the Democratic base.

The White House said Sunday that Obama will nominate someone "in due time" once the Senate returns next week from recess. Obama took roughly a month to nominate Justices Elena Kagan and Sonia Sotomayor, but this time the clock is ticking like never before.

Obama hasn't said who he's considering, but some Cabinet members, politicians and current judges are being prominently floated as possible picks:

THE CABINET MEMBERS

Attorney General Loretta Lynch

Though Lynch's nomination was fraught with politics, she's been recently confirmed and has been received relatively well by both parties since taking over the Justice Department less than a year ago. Before Obama promoted her, Lynch was a U.S. attorney for a key district based in Brooklyn. An African-American woman has never served on the Supreme Court. But her role in the Obama administration could prove divisive.

Homeland Security Secretary Jeh Johnson

Johnson has serious credentials in many critical areas of the law, having served as the Pentagon's general counsel and as a federal prosecutor. He has the benefit of having been Senate-confirmed multiple times - most recently in 2013 by an overwhelming majority. But Republicans loathe Obama's executive actions on immigration that Johnson's department put forward and are currently before the Supreme Court.

THE POLITICIANS

California Attorney General Kamala Harris

Elected statewide in California in 2010, Harris is a longtime prosecutor and rising Democratic star who has drawn occasional comparisons with Obama. She's currently running to replace California Sen. Barbara Boxer. Obama has made no secret of his affection for Harris; He once had to apologize after making an offhand joke that Harris was the country's best-looking attorney general.

Minnesota Sen. Amy Klobuchar

Picking a current colleague of the senators who will be voting on Obama's nominee could be one strategy to increase prospects for a vote. Klobuchar, in her second Senate term, is a former prosecutor and member of the Senate Judiciary Committee.

Utah Sen. Orrin Hatch

The Republican senator would be nominated only if Obama decided it would be better to pick a candidate Democrats didn't love than risk a Republican successor making the choice for him. Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., has suggested Obama go with a "consensus pick" like Hatch. He's also a key holdout in getting Senate approval for Obama's Trans-Pacific Partnership trade deal.

THE JUDGES

Sri Srinivasan, US Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit

With a compelling personal story, Srinivasan has long been eyed for the high court. Born in India, Srinivasan clerked for former Justice Sandra Day O'Connor - a Republican. He has the added appeal of having been confirmed unanimously less than three years ago.

Merrick Garland, chief judge, US Court for Appeals of the District of Columbia Circuit

Garland is a Harvard Law School graduate whose name has long been in the mix. He's considered a moderate judge and has experience on the D.C. circuit, which handles many cases involving administration actions.

Paul Watford, US Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit

Watford once served as a law clerk to Ginsburg, and worked as a federal prosecutor before Obama appointed him to the San Francisco-based court. An African-American, Watford was confirmed 61-34 in 2012.

Jacqueline Nguyen, US Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit

Nguyen would be the first Asian-American on the Supreme Court. She emigrated as a child from Vietnam and worked as an assistant U.S. attorney and a judge in California before Obama nominated her to federal courts.

Patricia Millett, US Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit

Obama nominated Millett in 2013 after John Roberts joined the Supreme Court as chief justice. Her nomination lingered for months amid a fight about the filibuster. Millett had experience in the U.S. Solicitor General's office, arguing dozens of cases before the Supreme Court.

Robert Wilkins, US Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit

A chemical engineer by training, Wilkins was a public defender before being appointed by Obama to federal positions. Wilkins, an African-American, was raised by a single mother and is known for his involvement in civil rights issues.

Jane Kelly, US Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit

Kelly, a former public defender, was unanimously confirmed to the St. Louis-based court. She's earned praise from Sen. Chuck Grassley, R-Iowa, who chairs the Senate Judiciary Committee. But Grassley has joined Republicans in urging delay until after the election.

Asia

North Korea's Kim orders more rocket launches

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—North Korean leader Kim Jong Un has praised scientists involved in the country's recent rocket launch that he said struck a "telling blow" to enemies and ordered them to press ahead with more launches, state media reported Monday.

Earlier this month, North Korea ignored repeated international warnings and launched what it said was an Earth observation satellite aboard a rocket. Washington, Seoul and other view the launch as a prohibited test of missile technology and are pushing hard to have Pyongyang slapped with strong sanctions.

The North's official Korean Central News Agency said the ruling Workers' Party on Saturday gave a banquet in honor of scientists, officials and others who it said contributed to the Feb. 7 rocket launch. Kim and his top deputies were present.

In a speech, Kim said the launch gave confidence and courage to his people and dealt a "telling blow to the enemies seeking to block the advance of our country," KCNA said, in an apparent reference to Seoul and Washington.

Kim said the North's launch decision was made when "the hostile forces were getting evermore frantic to suffocate" North Korea, and called for launching more working satellites in the future.

The launch, which followed the North's fourth nuclear test last month, aggravated already-strained ties between the rival Koreas. Last week, Pyongyang expelled all South Korean workers from a jointly run factory park in the North and put the area in charge of the military in retaliation for Seoul's decision to suspend operations there.

Seoul on Sunday accused North Korea of having channeled about 70 percent of the money it received for workers at the Kaesong park into its weapons programs and to buy luxury goods for the impoverished nation's tiny elite.

North Korea was able to divert the money because the workers in Kaesong were not paid directly. Instead, U.S. dollars were paid to the North Korean government, which siphoned off most of the money and paid only what it wanted to the employees in North Korean currency and store vouchers, according to a statement from Seoul's' Unification Ministry.

Obama faces challenge in forging front vs. China sea actions

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—With the symbolic handshakes and unity photo-op, President Barack Obama's high-profile summit with Southeast Asian leaders in California this week aims to step up pressure against China's increasingly worrisome behavior in disputed waters.

Forging a common front and encouraging bolder rhetoric against Chinese assertiveness in the South China Sea, however, will be a challenge among the diverse collection of VIP guests, who did not criticize China by name in past joint summit statements as the disputes flared on and off in recent years.

Decisions by the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, the bloc they lead, can easily be stalled. ASEAN includes governments aligned either with Washington or Beijing. Only four of its 10 member states are locked in the disputes with China and Taiwan, leading to sometimes conflicting views on handling the long-simmering rifts.

The regional bloc decides by consensus, meaning just one member can effectively shoot down any statement detrimental to China.

In recent years, summit statements have expressed concern over the escalating conflicts and called for freedom of navigation and overflight in the disputed territories, but they have rarely gone to specifics.

"I think it will be hard for the U.S. to convince the 10 ASEAN states to adopt any language on the South China Sea disputes that go beyond what ASEAN statements have said in the past," said Dr. Malcolm Cook of the Institute of Southeast Asian Studies in Singapore.

ASIAN BRIEFS

PH to sell Marcos jewelry valued at $21M

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—The Philippine government has approved the public exhibit and auction of the jewelry collection of late dictator Ferdinand Marcos' widow Imelda which international experts have appraised to be now worth at least 1 billion pesos ($21 million), officials said Monday. The hoard was seized when Marcos and his family fled to Hawaii in 1986 following a popular revolt that ended his two decades in power. They include a 25-carat, barrel-shaped diamond worth at least $5 million and a Cartier diamond tiara that is now many times more valuable than the previous estimate of $30,000 to $50,000. Andrew de Castro of the Presidential Commission on Good Government, an agency tasked to recover the Marcoses' ill-gotten wealth, said they hope to hold the exhibit and auction before the end of President Benigno Aquino III's term in June, when the terms for the current members of the commission also end.

China moves 10 chemical plants after explosion review

BEIJING (AP)—Authorities in the Chinese city of Tianjin are moving 10 chemical plants found to be too close to residential areas, six months after a devastating chemical accident killed 173 people. State media reports said the Work Safety Bureau of Tianjin's Binhai New Area reviewed 583 chemical firms and found problems at 85. The area suffered one of China's worst industrial accidents in August when a warehouse storing combustible chemicals exploded less than 1 kilometer away from apartments—the legally required distance. The head of the bureau's news office, who gave his name as Shi, told The Associated Press on Monday that the 10 plants were close to residential areas, though he didn't specify if they were within 1 kilometer. He said the other 75 were not near residential areas.

Indonesian officials, clerics ban Valentine's Day observance

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP)—Indonesian officials and Muslim clerics have banned young Muslims from celebrating Valentine's Day, arguing that the observance runs against Islamic teachings. In Banda Aceh, the capital of the devout Muslim province of Aceh, thousands of high school students held rallies rejecting the celebration of Valentine's Day. The city's mayor, Illiza Sa'aduddin Djamal, and Shariah officials joined Saturday's rallies. The mayor said the rallies were aimed at making people aware that Valentine's Day is not part of Islamic culture.

World

Pope condemns drug trade's 'dealers of death' in Mexico

ECATEPEC, Mexico (AP)—Pope Francis condemned the drug trade's "dealers of death" and urged Mexicans to shun the devil's lust for money as he led a huge open-air Mass for more than 300,000 people Sunday in this violence-riddled city.

"Let us get it into our heads: With the devil, there is no dialogue," the pope said at the biggest scheduled event of his five-day visit to Mexico.

Francis brought a message of encouragement on the second full day of his trip to residents of Ecatepec, a poverty-stricken Mexico City suburb of some 1.6 million people where drug violence, kidnappings and gangland-style killings, particularly of women, are a fact of life.

"He's coming to Ecatepec because we need him here," said Ignacia Godinez, a 56-year-old homemaker. "Kidnappings, robberies and drugs have all increased, and he is bringing comfort. His message will reach those who need it so that people know we, the good people, outnumber the bad."

In a clear reference to the drug lords who hold sway in the city's sprawling expanses of cinder-block slums, Francis focused his homily on the danger posed by the devil.

"Only the power of the word of God can defeat him," the pope said.

In a final prayer, he urged Mexicans to make their country into a land of opportunity "where there will be no need to emigrate in order to dream, no need to be exploited in order to work, no need to make the despair and poverty of many the opportunism of a few, a land that will not have to mourn men and women, young people and children who are destroyed at the hands of the dealers of death."

The faithful lined the pope's motorcade route to the huge field where the Mass took place, tossing flower petals as he passed by and cheering with pom-poms in the yellow and white of the Vatican flag.

Vendors sold T-shirts, plates with Francis' image on them, pins, bandanas and cardboard-cutout figures of the pope.

Multiple crises challenge European Union before summit

LONDON (AP)—If the European Union were a patient, its survival would be seen as threatened by multiple organ failure.

That's the view of many experts as EU leaders prepare for a Brussels summit that starts Thursday. Analysts believe the combined strain of challenges including a refugee crisis, threats facing the euro currency and Britain's plan to hold a referendum on whether to leave the EU may be unbearable for the 28-nation bloc.

Just 20 years ago, the EU seemed to be growing in stature as it proudly offered freedom and democracy—along with lucrative subsidies, military alliances and billions in foreign investment—to newly freed former Soviet satellites.

Now, NATO warships are steaming toward the Aegean Sea in an escalated bid to impose order on the chaotic arrival of more than 1 million migrants, which has not abated despite the wintry weather in southern Europe.

Informal mini-blocs have formed within the European Union, with some countries banding together to challenge, or just ignore, the EU's announced refugee resettlement program. Temporary border controls have been introduced in key countries including Germany and France, threatening the cherished notion of freedom of movement across European borders.

Britain, a nuclear power with a seat at the U.N. Security Council, is demanding concessions before a referendum on whether the U.K. should simply abandon the EU, a prospect known as "Brexit." And a slow-burning, extremely divisive budget crunch threatens the future of the euro single currency that has been a hallmark of European integration.

Ian Kearns, director of the European Leadership Network research group in London, said the EU is "undergoing an existential crisis" as a once shared sense of mission fades. Countries are pursuing their perceived national interests instead of seeking collective solutions, he said, and the notion of European solidarity is fading.

Love in the time of militias: Valentine's Day in Iraq

BAGHDAD (AP)—Baghdad is plastered with Valentine hearts and roses, and newly engaged Nour and Ahmed are out and about, enjoying a rare lull in violence in the Iraqi capital but wondering how long it will last.

Despite recent setbacks, the Islamic State group is still dug in some 60 kilometers (37 miles) from the Baghdad. And powerful Shiite militias now control security in many parts of the city, providing increased protection but raising concerns as the well-armed fighters often operate outside the government's control.

It's an improvement from over a year ago, when the two met while working at the same magazine. After chatting on Facebook, they started meeting with friends in the evening and on weekends.

"Of course during the times of bad security I would never have invited her to meet me at a restaurant," Ahmed said. "I would be too worried about her," he added with a smile, taking her hand. The two asked that their full names not be published, fearing for their security.

Neither is very religious, but Nour comes from a Shiite family and Ahmed from a Sunni one. Such relationships were common before the 2003 U.S.-led invasion, but have grown rarer since then, particularly after the fierce sectarian fighting that convulsed the country in 2006 and 2007.

They say they haven't encountered any problems yet on account of their unlikely romance, but they worry about the increasing power of religious figures in Iraqi life, including the Shiite militias, many of which trace their roots back to the days of sectarian unrest.

The militias, many of which are trained and armed by Iran, were reconstituted in the summer of 2014 after the army crumbled in the face of the IS group's lightening advance across northern and western Iraq. They have played a key role in securing the capital and prying back land from the extremists, but rights groups say they have also carried out revenge attacks on Sunnis.

Overdrive

Auto review: 2016 Nissan Maxima straddles sedan side of sport, sophistication

By ROBERT DUFFER
CHICAGO TRIBUNE

The redesigned Nissan Maxima is like a new shoe. It looks sharp but feels better, and the more you wear it, the better it feels.

The Maxima is footwear that is both athletic and sophisticated, functional and stylish. You can schlep the kids in it, take it out for anniversary date night on the town, challenge its performance capabilities on the road and make the driver of an Infiniti Q70 work much harder for the extra $10,000 he spent on the premium brand.

The 2016 Nissan Maxima starts at $32,510 and gets a MPG of 22 city, 30 highway.
MCT

DESIGN

It shares the same platform as the midsized Altima, but the sportier design unmistakably sets it apart from the more bland—and less expensive—Altima. With the same wheelbase, but a little bit longer with a slightly lower roofline than the Altima, the Maxima no longer takes up the full-size sedan slot for Nissan.

The handlebar-shaped grille, part of Nissan's "V-motion" branding on most of its new cars, extends outward down the beltline of the car. The windshield is long and slanted, the roofline sleek and low, and the curves are distinct enough for the car to attract attention without ever calling for it. And also like a new pair of shoes, it looks best in motion.

PERFORMANCE

We didn't drive it on the track, nor did we drive it much more aggressively than the legal limits. We drove it like most drivers will, but from a stop, the 261 pound-feet of torque kicking out of the beefed-up 3.5-liter V-6 engine is more than enough to put a smile on your face.

Front-wheel drive keeps it more composed (OK, dull) than other sport sedans, and the steering isn't as sharp as German sport sedans. Yet in most driving situations, it feels just fine.

Another element keeping the Maxima more on the sophisticated side rather than the sport side of the sedan world is the fuel-saving, continuously variable transmission.

But the improved CVT Nissan calls Xtronic also contributes to the impressive burst from a stop. Since there are no gear shifts, acceleration is uninterrupted. Most CVTs announce themselves with droning boredom at cruising speeds, as if the engine is letting out one long, endless sigh. Not so with Nissan, as the automaker has tweaked the Maxima's CVT to be nearly unnoticeable. The torque is ready and willing at midrange speed, so blowing past more traditional on-ramp mergers and soaking up the lovely, throaty call of the V-6 is the driver's recurring privilege. I loved this dual nature about the Maxima, and even though praising engine noise is typically reserved for V-8s, the Maxima sounds great.

In normal driving situations, you don't hear much at all, which is a balance that few other cars have at this price point. Open it up and feel young at heart, tone it down and feel adult.

NUTS & BOLTS

2016 Nissan Maxima Platinum at a glance

Vehicle type: midsize sedan
Base price: $32,510
As tested: $40,080 (excluding $825 delivery)
MPG: 22 city, 30 highway
Engine: 3.5-liter V-6
Transmission: Xtronic CVT with a 7-speed manual override
Parting shot: The new Maxima straddles the raw side of sport and the sophisticated side of sedan quite well.

COMFORTS

The Maxima stays relatively low to the ground, but is more sedan than sports car, so you don't need a handle or a crane to get out. There are enough seat adjustments to comfortably set your visibility, a trait that is positively more sedan than sport car. That's a good thing.

The top-of-the-line Platinum trim features diamond-patterned leather seats with 8-way power seat options and a thigh support extension that is part of Nissan's "zero gravity" seats that spread out your load. OK. It's a comfortable seat.

The heated seats have a loud fan, which is typical of Nissan and Infiniti cars we've tested. Otherwise, the cabin is as quiet as they come. The leather extends to the meaty flat-bottom steering wheel, and the thick, soft-clad dash gives the cockpit as much luxury as comfort. On the doors and glove box, the diamond-angled trim is a fake wood material that is more curious than anything else.

Small touches make a big difference, and prove that the Maxima was designed for the driver. Blind spot warnings in other cars are usually a yellow-orange light that flicks on in the side mirror. It can be distracting in the periphery, or unnoticeable. The blind spot warning on the Maxima is a soft orange rectangle on the inside of the door where it connects with the side mirror. It's in line with the other controls and gauges inside the cockpit so it never feels like an alarm.

Other little touches include control knobs for volume and radio tuning, despite having an 8-inch touch screen and redundant steering wheel controls that get the job done. There's also a knob in the center console like Mazda and the German automakers have, as if Nissan isn't quite sure which style to go with, so here's all four. You decide. The voice commands were spot-on and map functions were easy to navigate.

Simplifications continue to the performance options. There are normal and sport buttons—the latter delays shift points and opens up the throttle noise a bit. The buttons are on the center console, and you don't have to remove your elbow from the armrest to dial it up. There is also an actual gear stick that you can flick into seven manual gears. There are no paddle shifters, which is unusual in such a car, but we didn't miss them.

Calling it a sports sedan, as Nissan has done to distinguish it from the Altima, is like calling a Chuck Taylor a basketball shoe: not quite. In the company of true performance sedans such as the Audi S6 and BMW 5-Series, the 8th-generation Maxima handles more like the smaller Mazda6, but with upscale interior like the larger Toyota Avalon. I'd take the Maxima over either of the last two, despite the drop-off in fuel efficiency.

Robert Duffer is the editor of the Chicago's Tribune's auto section. Readers may contact him at Chicago Tribune, 435 N. Michigan Ave., Fifth Floor, Chicago IL 60611 or rduffer@tribpub.com

Motoring Q&A: Used car isn't living up to mileage expectations

By PAUL BRAND
STAR TRIBUNE (MINNEAPOLIS)

Q My wife and I recently purchased a 2007 Honda Fit with 103,000 miles on it. Unfortunately, the car gets crappy gas mileage: 22 miles per gallon in mostly city driving, 30 on the highway in warmer weather. The car appears to be in good overall condition, starts easily and runs smoothly. I've replaced the air filter and the spark plugs; neither had any effect. The tires are inflated to specs. The coolant temperature was 172 degrees when the car was warmed up. We have twice had it checked out by our mechanic and he finds no codes on the scanner. Its EPA fuel economy is estimated at 35/27 with an average of 30. What could be going on with this car?

A The low coolant temperature when fully warmed up may be the cause. A reading of 172 degrees is below normal operating temperature and may well prevent the engine management system from operating in "closed loop," utilizing input from the oxygen sensors to optimize the fuel-to-air ratio and ignition timing for maximum fuel mileage and efficiency.

When you first start the cold engine it operates in "open loop" with no O2 sensor input—basically the warm-up mode. With coolant temperature below the thermostat threshold, the system may be staying in open loop. This makes the thermostat and coolant sensor prime suspects. On your Fit the thermostat should begin opening at 176 degrees and be fully open at 203 degrees. It's possible the thermostat is stuck open and failing to regulate the coolant operating temperature.

Although far less likely, it might be a case of, for want of a better descriptor, "overcooling." If you live in an area of severe winter, the coolant may never reach the thermostat threshold, causing the engine management system to remain in open loop. Are either of the radiator cooling fans operating when the coolant temperature is low? They shouldn't be.

Q Are you aware of any aftermarket kits that would provide daytime running lights for vehicles not originally fitted with them? I've had two recent experiences where I did not see oncoming cars in poor light because they did not have DRLs. I have no idea what costs would be involved but it wouldn't seem like an expensive "fix."

A It's not. For vehicles not originally equipped with DRLs, owners have two options. First, a complete DRL kit, including lights, can be added to most vehicles. Costs range from $30 to over $100 and the lights are relatively simple to install. These are wired so that the DRLs illuminate when the ignition is switched on. Most of these kits include LED lights that draw relatively little current.

The other option is to add a DRL control module to the vehicle's existing lighting system. These typically operate the low-beam headlights at full brightness anytime the ignition is switch on. These modules are quite inexpensive—some are under $30—and can be a DIY installation.

Q I have a 2002 GMC pickup with 6.0-liter engine. The truck has roughly 211,000 miles on it, has been maintained and is still in pretty good shape. This fall the "check engine" light started flashing when the speed hit 70 to 75 mph. If I slowed down it would stop flashing around 65 mph. There is no noticeable miss or drop in power. Two shops could not pick up any fault codes. The problem happens like clockwork at higher speeds.

A A flashing "check engine" light usually means big trouble—a significant misfire, large vacuum leak or a catalytic converter/oxygen sensor/restricted exhaust issue. In most cases drivability will be noticeably affected. Since it's not, have a shop or dealer connect a data recorder to the truck's diagnostic link to record the event as it occurs to determine what's going on.

Paul Brand, author of "How to Repair Your Car," is an automotive troubleshooter, driving instructor and former race-car driver. Readers may write to him at: Star Tribune, 425 Portland Ave. S., Minneapolis, Minn., 55488 or via email at paulbrand@startribune.com. Please explain the problem in detail and include a daytime phone number. Because of the volume of mail, we cannot provide personal replies.

Life & Style

MOVIE REVIEW

'Everything About Her' is 'Everything About Us'

By JAIME R. VERGARA
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

It used to be that I went to the movies and be entertained, which in Pinas' simply meant a momentary escape from dusty and humid tropical existence, air-conditioned Never Netherland, or to fantastic futuristic fancies of the imagination.

The trailers at the Regal Theatre (the old Hollywood) before the showing of the movie of Ate Vi followed the formula to the T. First two trailers were hard core Sci-Fi, then Captain America, followed by cartoons of Angry Birds, cute, cuddly, and out of this world, Batman vs. Superman, and the jungle's vitality with the animals in a revved up Jungle Book, none of which exhibited any resemblance to every day living.

I thought I was going to be at a Vilma faithful gathering (lots of over 50s ladies) when I entered the theatre with only me as the Pinoy and a sea of Pinays, some students at a Philippine Consulate English class I taught ages ago, then two men were dragged in by their wives, and an elderly walked in with a bevy of young girls; two young boys came with their Moms. Clearly though, the females outnumbered the males 15-1 at the movie house.

Now, let me say a word about my relationship to reviewing art forms. While living in Chicago where the city museum has Picasso's Guernica, a painting he drew after the Luftwaffe practiced bombing the Spanish town in Franco's Civil War, I "dialogued" with art pieces, and other art forms. There are four levels of human consciousness: the objective, reflective, interpretive, and decisional (ORID). The issue was not "authority," on someone's say so but "authenticity" where an artform encounter addressed a reality that the viewer is familiar with. Participant observers did not exist.

Against an art form, one allowed awareness of an assault on the five senses, the inner feelings, the social cognitions, and the deeds of the will. Anyone preparing an "art form" conversation in the Institute of Cultural Affairs in Chicago remembered ORID for the four levels to journey a group or an individual from sense experience through feelings and thoughts to the action. It was not on the say so of a Monet or Renoir, a Picasso, or a Warhol; it was on the viewer's discretion.

The awareness of the viewer is just as important as the art form viewed. There are no bystanders, or just onlookers. One had to "participate", get into the art form, and the dialogical experience is what determines the value of the art form and its impact. The existentialists demonstrated this mode of thinking in science and philosophy in which we were schooled, but metaphysics is not at issue, authenticity is.

I demystified filmmaking in Beverly Hills in the summer of '66. De-mythologized was the term applied to iconic figures, spending half of the summer on Rodeo Drive before the place became a glitzy string of high priced boutiques, at the Polynesian restaurant the Luau that opened in '53. I was a busboy who graduated into being a waiter since I came in early (after two hours on two bus rides from the Watts to Beverly) to do the books from receipts of the previous day. No cooking of books, I became friendly with the Chinese chefs and the Filipino staff, busboys-mand waiters who then taught me how to be a waiter on the restaurant floor.

Waiting on tables, I sang "Happy Birthday" to Andy Williams, served lunch to Marlon Brando and Tahitian wife Tarita Teriipaia, and served a meal to a bunch of ladies of a book club who feted toupeeless Rex Harrison a din-din. Memorable was Luau giving me complimentary open charge in the bar and the dining hall on my last day, but I only managed to buy this lady a drink, who gave me a very wet kiss on the lips in gratitude because she evidently already had a few. I would later smile when I read that Jill St. John became Kissinger's girlfriend. One up on Henry, I just turned 21 so I took the kiss as my happy birthday, and later, Henry (the task of the leader is to get his people from where they are to where they have not been) as a dialogical friend!

Thus, in both Chicago and L. A., a review of an art form had to include the viewer into the picture, or else the result is objectively stale and dismissible. Put another way, by my teaching experience, students learning vocabulary in class were those who memorized words and dictionary meaning only, and those who tried to understand the words by using them. In a test, the group scores were not significantly different, but a week later, both administered another test on the same words, those who "understood" the words fared better than those who just memorized them.

The experience of seeing Ate Vi and her movie *Everything About Her*, is not simply just describing what the movie is about (one can Google that and get the info) and whether one should bother to go see it. In an article I wrote last week of the Pinilakang Tabing of Pinas, I recommended that we go see Ate Vi's movie (she is eight years my junior but in the Filipino honorific tradition, she's Ate Vi), if only to find out what TFC of ABS-CBN is promoting to Filipinos on Saipan, around the Pacific and the Pacific Rim.

The story line is simple. Vivian is a successful female land developer who discovers she suffers from stage 3 cancer but was too proud to let anyone know about it to protect the vaunted social face (*mukha* in 'Pinas, a universal reality in the Orient, *mienzi* in China, *mentsu* in Japan, and *chemyeon* in Korea). A recalcitrant son Albert, played by Xian Lim, who felt neglected when growing up is herded back to the fold by a confident nurse Jaica played by Angel Locsin (she could stay off sweets), hired to care for Mama in her waning years, and ending as a bridge between mother and son. A star-studded cast supports the three main characters.

I once watched a colleague edit a film on Human Development Projects (HDP) around the world, focusing on the first eight sites for showing at the UN Habitat Conference in Vancouver '76, and the meticulous way he checked and insured that the flow would not be jumpy or visually awkward; it was a marvel on keeping an eye on details. This was not just on the visual either; it also included the audio that accompanied the scenes.

The movie *Everything About Her* was evidently edited carefully. The cinematography appeared seamless. The editing in some sections might have been difficult for those used to expecting historical chronology but I did find the space-time mix a gift rather than an error in unwieldy segments. The English subtitles were helpful to non-Filipino viewers though some of the nuances were lost in the translation.

The accompanying movie theme song, *Something I Need*, unobtrusively played in the background, sang by Piolo Pascual and Morissette Amon (reminded me of Canadian Alanis Morissette). The lyrics to the song tells the movie story: If we only die once (hey) I wanna die with you, with the potential of turning the acting into something syrupy at the denouement but I did not see the actors go OA (over act) that way.

I brought a hankie but left it in the car. So did the wallet so I skipped the popcorn. To see a Filipino movie, one must have ample supply of facial tissues. Either that, or I just had not seen a Pinoy movie for a long time. I was susceptible to tears triggered by deployment of authentic, unpretentious, readily identifiable scenes. Nasal drips would have been fine, but on the second half of the movie, the tears poured out inevitably. One of the ladies commented after: *nakakatuwang nakaka-iyak* ("delightfully tearful"—what did I say about translations).

The lines and gestures were classically Pinas. Yes, the conflicts were scripted but then, you expect that from any movie. The nurse enlivened tense situations with light banter, Filipino affectation to the discerning outsider. A Polack (derogatory in NA but not in my use) neighbor who speaks Ilokano in Finansisu (served time in Ilokandia) confirms this in his comments on a piece I wrote on despair that in a stressful situation, Filipinos play it with guffaws, or, at least, give it a light touch of levity (like the jokes on Ferdie and Meldie widespread after the airport assassination of Ninoy).

I sort of expected the three main characters to OA and in the movie's case where the dialectic of the over-achieving executive over-bearing on employees played sharply from "hateful" to "loving," one expected jarring transformations. But the actors refrained from being melodramatic; they acted like ordinary human beings under ordinary living conditions (though the opulence surrounding the Vivian character was more of a parody than reality, recognizable only by those who have friends at Forbes Park and Dasmariñas in my time, or the Tagaytay condos today) that endeared the movie to me, and the audience.

I had not seen Vilma Santos since 19-forgotten, and she evidently had more than her share of sessions on the dental chair, but the encounter with the film is something every Pinoys should go to, but more importantly, be prepared to dialogue with it. I got into the movie, or rather, the movie got under my skin, so that the Ate Vi character was no longer "everything about her," rather, it became "everything about us."

The Buddhist would say, if you meet the Buddha (yourself) walking, kill it. I did. But it was still worth the while to watch Ate Vi in her movie.

Evidently, it will be another while before I see another Filipino movie again, and given the unorthodox manner this review is written, it will be a while before I am expected to make one again also.

First Year Death Anniversary
† Rufina P. Deleon Guerrero
Nightly Mass is being offered at St. Jude Church at 6pm. On the last day, Thursday, February 18, 2016, dinner will be served immediately after the Mass at Roman Deleon Guerrero's residence, Lower Dandan.
Thank you, Si Yu'us Ma'ase, and Salamat Po
from
Roman, Deborah, Lynnette, Lavina, Alma, and Eva

Big 'Deadpool' debut annihilates 'Fifty Shades' record, more

AP
This image released by Twentieth Century Fox shows Ryan Reyonlds in a scene from the film, "Deadpool."

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The R-rated "Deadpool" has taken the box office by storm, annihilating records with an eye-popping $135 million from its first three days in U.S. theaters, according to comScore estimates Sunday.

The Fox film, which stars Ryan Reynolds as the foul-mouthed superhero, easily trounced last year's record-setting $85.2 million February debut of the erotic drama "Fifty Shades of Grey." It also became the biggest R-rated opening ever, surpassing "The Matrix Reloaded," which opened to $91.8 million in May of 2003.

Analysts are predicting that the Tim Miller-directed film, which cost a mere $58 million to produce, could go on to make $150 million by the end of the holiday weekend. As recently as Thursday, "Deadpool" was expected to pull in only $80 million across the three days, but the Marvel comic, often a best-seller, proved its popular appeal and then some—and it didn't have to compromise with a PG-13 rating either.

"This movie is the very definition of an expectation-buster. Nobody saw this coming," said Paul Dergarabedian, comScore's senior media analyst. "It doesn't feel like a cookie-cutter superhero movie. It feels like something unique. You've got to sometimes take risks and go against conventional wisdom to come out a winner."

IMAX screens accounted for an estimated $16.8 million of "Deadpool's" total. The film, notably, was not released in 3D.

"Deadpool" also had a massive showing internationally, bringing in an estimated $125 million from 62 territories for a $260 million global total.

The debut is also a bit of a superhero redemption story for Reynolds whose costly "Green Lantern" adaptation disappointed audiences and at the box office in 2011.

Coming in a distant second was last weekend's No. 1 film "Kung Fu Panda 3" with $19.7 million, which fell only 7 percent. The DreamWorks Animation film has earned $93.9 million in just three weeks in theaters.

In third place, the R-rated Dakota Johnson and Rebel Wilson rom-com "How to Be Single" didn't make any big waves with its $18.8 million out of the gates. The Warner Bros. film cost $38 million to produce and provided some counter programming to the hyper violent "Deadpool."

The dismally reviewed Ben Stiller comedy "Zoolander 2," meanwhile, debuted in fourth place to only $15.7 million. The Paramount film, which Stiller directed, cost around $50 million to make. The first film, "Zoolander," opened in 2001, just weeks after the Sept. 11 attacks, to a meek $15.5 million and went on to gross only $45.2 million in North America. It found a second life on home video, though and has become a quotable cultural staple. Audiences seem less enthusiastic this time around, though.

Dergarabedian thinks that both "How to Be Single" and "Zoolander 2" could see a healthy uptick from the Valentine's Day crowd Sunday.

But overall, the box office is healthy, up an estimated 3.2 percent from last year and it's all thanks to the snarky, fourth-wall-busting "Deadpool" and its historic debut.

"These are summer numbers," Dergarabedian said. "It's summer in February."

Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at U.S. and Canadian theaters, according to comScore. Where available, the latest international numbers for Friday through Sunday are also included. Final domestic figures will be released Monday.

1. "Deadpool," $135 million ($125 million international).
2. "Kung Fu Panda 3," $19.7 million ($14.6 million international).
3. "How to Be Single," $18.8 million ($8.1 million international).
4. "Zoolander 2," $15.7 million ($8.5 million international).
5. "The Revenant," $6.9 million ($14 million international).
6. "Hail, Caesar!," $6.6 million.
7. "Star Wars: The Force Awakens," $6.2 million ($4.3 million international).
8. "The Choice," $5.3 million ($600,000 international).
9. "Ride Along 2," $4.1 million ($1.5 million international).
10. "The Boy," $2.9 million ($1.3 million international).

Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at international theaters (excluding the U.S. and Canada), according to comScore:

1. "Deadpool," $125 million.
2. " Mei Ren Yu (The Mermaid)," $109 million.
3. "The Monkey King 2," $38 million.
4. "From Vegas to Macau III," $36 million.
5. "Alvin and the Chipmunks: The Road Chip," $15.3 million.
6. "Kung Fu Panda 3," $14.6 million.
7. "The Revenant," $14 million.
8. "A Violent Prosecutor," $11 million.
9. "Zoolander 2," $8.5 million.
10. "How to Be Single," $8.1 million.

'The Revenant' and DiCaprio are winners at BAFTA film awards

LONDON (AP)—The U.K. film industry showered Valentine's Day love on "The Revenant" Sunday, awarding the endurance epic five prizes, including best picture and best actor, at the British Academy Film Awards.

Leonardo DiCaprio cemented his Oscar-favorite status by taking the best-actor trophy for playing a bear-battling fur trapper in a brutally wild American West. Alejandro G. Inarritu was named best director for what he called a "human and tender story," and "The Revenant" also won prizes for cinematography and sound.

DiCaprio, who has been nominated three times before at the British awards without winning, said in his acceptance speech that he was "absolutely humbled" to beat "The Martian" star Matt Damon, "Trumbo"'s Bryan Cranston, Michael Fassbender for "Steve Jobs," and Eddie Redmayne for "The Danish Girl."

He cited the influence on his work of British actors including Tom Courtney, Peter O'Toole, Daniel Day Lewis and his "Revenant" co-star Tom Hardy, and sent thanks and greetings to his mother, whose birthday fell on Sunday.

The British awards, known as BAFTAs, are considered a portent of success at Hollywood's Feb. 28 Academy Awards. "The Revenant" has earned DiCaprio his sixth Oscar nomination—and, many believe, his best shot at finally winning.

DiCaprio said it was out of his hands, but expressed pride in what he called "not just a film, but an epic journey we all went on."

"We put our heart and soul into this movie ... It's up to the world now and voters to decide," he said at a post-ceremony news conference.

The best-actress trophy went to Brie Larson as a mother trying to shield her son from a terrible reality in "Room." She won out over Alicia Vikander for "The Danish Girl," Cate Blanchett for "Carol," Maggie Smith for "The Lady in the Van" and Saoirse Ronan for "Brooklyn."

Supporting performer prizes went to Mark Rylance, a soft-spoken Soviet agent in "Bridge of Spies," and Kate Winslet, an Apple executive in "Steve Jobs."

Winslet dedicated the prize to "all those young women who doubt themselves," recalling that she once had been told to go for "the fat-girl parts."

"Look at me now!" Winslet said.

"The Revenant" beat several hotly tipped awards contenders, including Steven Spielberg's Cold War thriller "Bridge of Spies" and Todd Haynes' lesbian romance "Carol." Each had nine BAFTA nominations, but "Bridge of Spies" won only for Rylance's performance, while "Carol" was shut out.

Irish emigrant saga "Brooklyn" was named best British film, a distinct category, while the documentary prize went to "Amy," a powerful portrait of the rise and fall of singer Amy Winehouse.

George Miller's dystopian thrill ride "Mad Max: Fury Road" took four prizes: editing, production design, costume design, and hair and makeup.

Two leading Oscar contenders also won awards: "Spotlight," the drama about newspaper reporters investigating sex abuses in the Catholic Church, for original screenplay, and financial-crisis dramedy "The Big Short" for adapted screenplay.

On a crisp, cool London winter evening, hundreds of fans gathered to watch the stars arrive at the Royal Opera House. Among the arrivals were nominees DiCaprio, Mark Ruffalo, Fassbender, Blanchett, Spielberg, Winslet, and "Star Wars" action hero John Boyega.

Inside the plush auditorium, actor-comedian Stephen Fry hosted a ceremony that included a Valentine's-themed kiss-cam stunt which saw seatmates including DiCaprio and Maggie Smith smooch onscreen.

Boyega won the Rising Star award—decided by public vote—and dedicated it to "all the young dreamers who are hard-working, who are determined and who quite frankly are amazing." ''Star Wars: The Force Awakens" won the BAFTA for visual effects.

The black comedy anthology "Wild Tales," written and directed by Argentine Damian Szifron, won for non-English language film. Famed Italian film composer Ennio Morricone, 87, received the music award for his score to Quentin Tarantino's "The Hateful Eight."

The movie awards season has been dominated by debate about why the film industry remains dominated by white men. All the acting nominees for the Oscars both this year and last have been white.

The BAFTAs are slightly more diverse, with two black actors nominated—Boyega and Idris Elba, a supporting-actor contender for "Beasts of No Nation." Pioneering black American actor Sidney Poitier—the first black best-actor Oscar winner, in 1963—received a lifetime achievement award, the BAFTA fellowship.

A group called Creatives of Colour Network organized a protest beside the red carpet against a lack of racial diversity in show business. Demonstrators rallied under the hashtag #baftablackout, and distributed leaflets declaring the awards "male, pale and stale."

The head of the British film academy said she supported the protesters' aims.

"Our industry isn't diverse enough, so the pool of people to draw award winners from isn't diverse enough," chief executive Amanda Berry told the Daily Telegraph newspaper.

Producer says Grammys doesn't have Oscars diversity issue

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A veteran Grammys executive producer says his awards show does not have a diversity issue like the Oscars and that it is not fair to compare the two programs.

Ahead of Monday's show, news outlets reported that the Grammys could be under fire since it planned to pay tribute to white performers such as David Bowie and The Eagles' Glenn Frey with live performances, though the legacy of black acts such as Natalie Cole and Maurice White of Earth, Wind & Fire recently passed and were not receiving the same treatment.

Ken Ehrlich said he first thought of booking a performer to honor Cole, but then he watched her 1992 Grammys performance of her singing in sync with her father, Nat King Cole, who appeared in video. It was the same year she won album of the year for "Unforgettable... with Love," which paid tribute to her father with reworked versions of some of his best-known songs.

Ehrlich called the video of the performance "unbelievably touching" and said it will be played at the end of the "In Memorium" section of the awards show. Natalie Cole died Dec. 31.

AP

In this Sept. 14, 1995 file photo, Ralph Johnson, from left, Phillip Bailey, Maurice White and Verdine White, of Earth, Wind & Fire are honored with a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame in Los Angeles.

Earth, Wind & Fire—who were set to receive a lifetime achievement award before White passed—will accept the honor on live TV, speak about White's legacy and present one of the top awards, record of the year, Ehrlich said. White died Feb. 4 and Ehrlich added that there will also be a surprise with Earth, Wind & Fire.

B.B. King, who died last year, will also be honored with a performance tribute by Bonnie Raitt, Gary Clark Jr. and Chris Stapleton, Ehrlich said.

The producer said though the Oscars have received a backlash for a second straight year of all-white acting nominees, the Grammys are not even comparable.

"The fact of the matter is popular music is, it came from New Orleans, it came from Memphis, it came from Kansas City, it came from the Islands, it came from Africa, and the music we listen to today, not just hip-hop, not just R&B, but all music has been influenced and been shaped by African-American culture, so I don't think the same rules apply," he said. "There wouldn't be a Grammys show today if it weren't for the great African-American artists who built the culture and wrote the music and we try to reflect that every year. I don't think it's fair to level criticism, the same kind of criticism against us that the Oscars are experiencing."

Ehrlich added that the music and movie industries are like apples and oranges: "They might be the same shape, they might get to you in the same form, but they're entirely different art forms and they come from entirely different places."

Other performers at the Grammys, airing from Staples Center in Los Angeles, will include Adele, Rihanna, Taylor Swift, the Weeknd, Carrie Underwood and Kendrick Lamar, who is the top nominee with 11.

Rihanna, Usher, Wonder honor Lionel Richie on Grammy weekend

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Rihanna, Usher, Stevie Wonder and John Legend paid tribute to Lionel Richie in a musical tribute touching on his roots in R&B to his string of romantic, easy-listening ballads that ruled the airwaves in the 1980s.

They joined The Band Perry, Demi Lovato, Luke Bryan, Chris Stapleton and Ellie Goulding in launching Grammy weekend Saturday night by honoring Richie as the MusiCares Person of the Year.

Richie was toasted for his musical achievements and philanthropic work two days before the Grammy Awards. The 66-year-old singer-songwriter launches a string of South American tour dates later this month.

Rihanna, wearing red sneakers with her red and white floral gown, sang "Say You, Say Me" backed by a string section.

Usher showed off his dance moves on the buoyant "Lady (You Bring Me Up)."

"You really got the white people up and dancing," cracked host Jimmy Kimmel, who came out sporting a huge Afro and a white jumpsuit. After seeing old clips of Richie in sequined jumpsuits, Kimmel joked, "He has so many terrible outfits."

Lenny Kravitz, Florence Welch and Dave Grohl provided the most unpredictable versions of Richie hits. Kravitz kicked off the 2 Ω-hour show with a rock version of "Running With the Night" that included a guitar solo. Welch's take on "Dancing On the Ceiling" featured guitar-strumming and rhythmic hand-clapping from the idle string section.

Grohl, lead singer of Foo Fighters, showed off a rare romantic side with a jaunty version of "You Are" that had the crowd on its feet dancing. He explained his connection to Richie came about last year after Grohl broke his leg on tour. Richie sent the rocker a huge basket of muffins as consolation, and Grohl saluted him as the "Muffin Man."

Legend performed "Easy" on piano, and Wonder touched on Richie's early days with the Commodores by doing "Three Times a Lady."

Yolanda Adams and a choir injected powerful gospel into the proceedings, earning one of the night's standing ovations.

Pharrell and the Roots were joined by Little Big Town, Leon Bridges, Tori Kelly and Corrine Bailey Rae for a medley that culminated in the Commodores' classic "Brick House."

Oscar-winning actor Kevin Spacey did a cappella snippet of "Mr. Bojangles" before introducing Richie, who gave a shout-out to his "fabulous" hometown of Tuskegee, Alabama, where he met the Commodores in college.

Richie said that from his earliest hits he didn't realize how the music business worked, with R&B, pop and country in separate categories.

"I did not know that there were categories until I walked into a station one day and they said, 'We can't play your record because it's too black,' " he said. "So I went home and wrote 'Easy' and I brought it back. They said, 'We can't play the record because it's too white.' I was confused."

"The slogan in those days was, 'Lionel Richie crossed over and can't get black,' " he said, drawing laughter. "Today I am standing here celebrating all the songs they told me would ruin my career."

Broken car seat sparks feud over who should foot the bill

DEAR ABBY: My sister-in-law has asked me to pay for repairs to the passenger seat of her car. She was picking up my 9-year-old to stay the night, and when he got inside, he moved the seat forward to better fit his stature. She got upset and said, "The seat was broken. We had it set just right for me when I'm the passenger."

Since he adjusted it she hasn't been able to reset it. When I asked if there was a note on the dash that read "Do not move seat," she said no. Then I asked, if this was her best friend's son, would she be requesting money to repair an already broken seat? Her response was, "No." Am I wrong to think she was out of line to ask?

FUMING IN WASHINGTON STATE

DEAR FUMING: You're not wrong. If your sister-in-law had warned your son not to touch the seat before he adjusted it, she might have a leg to stand on. However, if she's short of money and was baby-sitting your son as a favor, in the interest of keeping peace in the family, offer to contribute to the cost of the repair.

DEAR ABBY: What are the dangers of driving while on strong painkillers? Since codeine is a controlled substance that you have to sign for to receive the prescription, does it impair distance vision and reaction time?

My elderly dad says as long as he has taken the pill the night before, it's all right for him to drive. He takes about 12 different medications every day, and the pain medicine must stay in his system at all times to work effectively.

Are other drivers in danger when he drives under the influence of prescription drugs? Can he be arrested if he hits someone? His car is already dented because he hit something. It would be a shame for him to cause some innocent driver who encounters him on the highway to be crippled or die. What do you think?

MEDICATED IN RALEIGH, N.C.

DEAR MEDICATED: I am not an expert in pharmacology. I suggest you compile a list of all the drugs your father is taking -- both prescription drugs and the over-the-counter variety. Take the list to his pharmacist and ask these questions. He or she can give you the answers you need because some drugs can interact with each other.

DEAR ABBY: A friend and I had a falling-out over a manners thing. When three people eat out together and everyone orders their own dessert, is it rude to not allow someone to take a bite of yours?

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

This friend wanted to taste another one's dessert and the guy said no. The friend then claimed the refuser was rude because he didn't want to share. Was the person wrong to have declined?

JUST ONE BITE

DEAR JUST ONE: Whether to share one's food is a matter of personal preference. No rule of etiquette demands that someone do so just because it has been requested, and it wasn't rude to refuse.

For everything you need to know about wedding planning, order "How to Have a Lovely Wedding." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Wedding Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

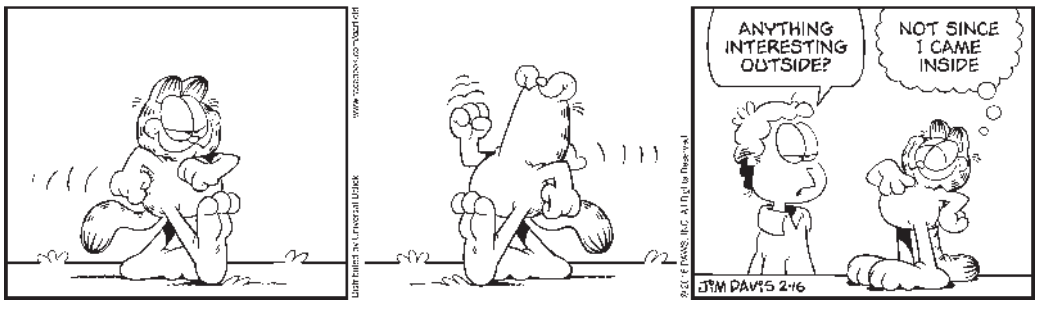
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

I GOT THE NEW ALBUM BY SCRAMBLED DEBUTANTE.
ALL THEIR SONGS GLORIFY DEPRAVED VIOLENCE, MINDLESS SEX, AND THE DELIBERATE ABUSE OF DANGEROUS DRUGS.
YOUR MOM'S GOING TO GO INTO CONNIPTIONS WHEN SHE SEES THIS LYING AROUND.
WELL I SURE DIDN'T BUY IT FOR THE MUSIC.
WATTERSON
2-16

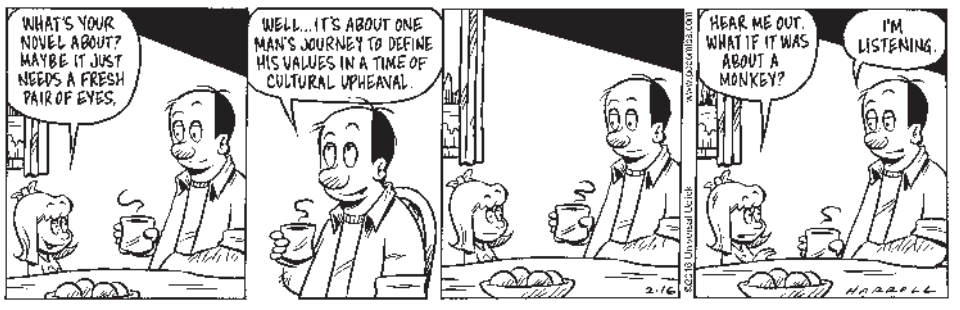
Garfield®

By Jim Davis



Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


WHAT'S YOUR NOVEL ABOUT? MAYBE IT JUST NEEDS A FRESH PAIR OF EYES.
WELL...IT'S ABOUT ONE MAN'S JOURNEY TO DEFINE HIS VALUES IN A TIME OF CULTURAL UPHEAVAL.
HEAR ME OUT. WHAT IF IT WAS ABOUT A MONKEY?
I'M LISTENING.
2-16
HARRELL

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

LOOKING FOR LOVE IN ALL THE WRONG PLACES?
I'M LOOKING FOR MY BOYFRIEND, THE BODYBUILDER.
SORRY. I'M IN THE WRONG PLACE.
2/16
MCCOY

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Finn's vessel
5 Kids' game
8 Fine spray
12 Matty of baseball
13 Altar affirmative
14 Singer Guthrie
15 Repeated verbatim
17 Wander
18 Pair
19 Peter, Paul and Mary, e.g.
21 "We — Overcome"
24 Neat as —
25 Swiss cheese feature
26 Rapacious one
30 Ump's call
31 Cardiff's country
32 Honest politician
33 Divided fairly, say
35 Oaf
36 Cries of aversion
37 Liberated
38 Break fluid?
41 By way of
42 Dating from
43 Earring shape, often
48 Dr. McGraw
49 "— a Camera"
50 Hang out in a hammock
51 Shopper's delight
52 Drink holder
53 Vortex

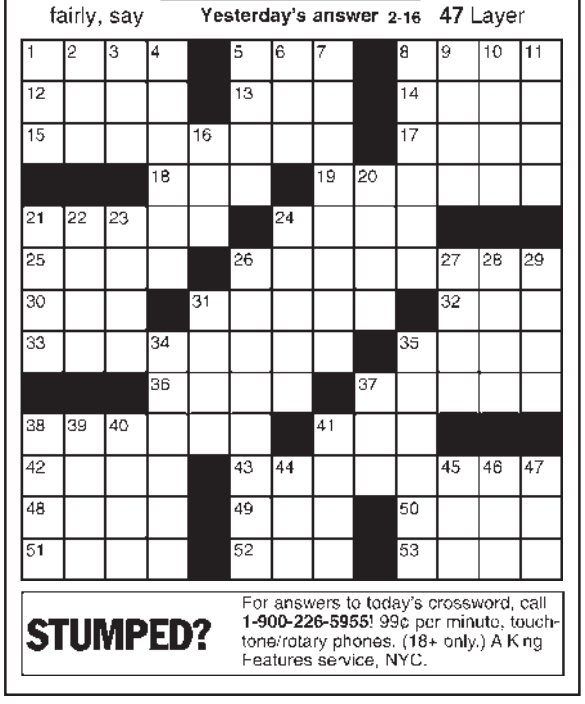
DOWN

1 Knock
2 Carte lead-in
3 In favor of
4 Reptile with a shell
5 Jackson 5 name
6 Citrus drink
7 "Have a safe trip!"
8 Boat basin
9 Press
10 Venetian blind part
11 Brady and Hanks
16 Wise bird
20 Helps
21 Boutique
22 60 minutes
23 Saxophone range
24 City in Provence
26 Beyond sad
27 Story
28 Reed instrument
29 Sitcom star Foxx
31 Carry on, as a war
34 Petticoat frill
35 Baby rocker
37 Tall tree
38 Beanies
39 Job-safety org.
40 Épée relative
41 Coquette
44 Perfume label word
45 Scepter
46 Like Yeller
47 Layer

Solution time: 22 mins.

O	D	D			D	R	E	A	M		F	D	R
F	E	N			M	A	R	D	I		O	O	
F	I	A	M	I	N	G	O	S		A	I	R	
			O	T	T		P	E	S	T	L	E	
S	A	F	A	R	I		T	R	I	B			
A	L	L		I	N	K		S	C	H	A	P	
B	A	A	S		G	O	O		K	O	L	A	
U	N	P	E	G		I	C	H		K	E	Y	
		J	E	E	Z		T	E	P	E	E	S	
C	H	A	S	T	E		A	R	E				
R	O	C			L	A	V	O	R	T	U	L	
A	R	K			A	D	D		N		U	S	A
G	A	S			R	A	J	A	S		N	E	W

Yesterday's answer 2-16



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955!** 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: The Weeknd, 26; Elizabeth Olsen, 27; Ice-T, 58; Le-Var Burton, 59.

Happy Birthday: Make home and family a priority, and you will excel outside your domestic environment. Finding a healthy balance between work and play will help you accomplish as much as possible. Personal improvements plus a generous attitude will help you attract special people into your life. Love can make the world go round. Be a giving participant. Your numbers are 2, 9, 15, 22, 29, 34, 41.

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Get involved in something that matters. Surprise someone with an unexpected gesture. A chance to change your vocational path to a more academic position will lead to a higher income and greater satisfaction. Don't let anyone bully you. ✪✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Don't hold a grudge or argue about the way things get done. Do your part and you will have no regrets. A partnership will go through changes, but in the end, it will bring you closer together and help you make personal gains. ✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Don't sit back. Speak up and share your ideas. If someone tries to intervene or suggests unrealistic plans, take action that will allow you to stick to your plan without complications or taking on more than you can handle. Emotional manipulation is apparent. ✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Keep an open mind when dealing with authority figures or institutions. Reserve judgment and get all the facts without sharing too much about your personal life. Look for alternatives and don't be afraid to do things differently. ✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Refuse to argue. Remain calm and reticent about how you want to go about your business. Try to get everything in place before you make your next move. An interesting turn of events will develop while networking. ✪✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Keep your feelings to yourself. Don't let anyone put demands on you. Take care of your responsibilities and move on to more enjoyable pastimes. Love and romance will help you resolve a misunderstanding or concern. ✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Take the plunge and sign up for something you want to do. Whether it's a course, trip or an event that gives you incentive to move forward, now is the time to put things in place. Walk away from situations that cannot be resolved. ✪✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Keep moving. Idle time will lead to anxiety and run-ins with people who don't see things the same way you do. Focus on something that takes you away from your ordinary routine and allows you to develop a unique plan. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Emotional tension will mount if you haven't been honest. Make changes at home that will help you gain confidence and allow you the freedom you need to excel. Think matters through and do what's best for you. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Don't worry about what others do. Focus on your goals and follow through with your plans. It's up to you to protect your position, assets and possessions from anyone who is manipulative or has ulterior motives. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): The changes you make at home will be beneficial but challenging. The chance to begin a new routine is within your reach. Don't get upset when you should take charge and set the stage for the way you want things to be. ✪✪✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Your unpredictable nature will wreak havoc when dealing with colleagues, friends and family. Don't let your emotions take over, causing you to overreact or make assumptions that will put you in a vulnerable or awkward position. ✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are free-spirited, resourceful and easygoing. You are brave and benevolent.

*Eugenia's website—**eugenialast.com**, Eugenia's android app @ **http://bit.ly/exhoro** and join Eugenia on **twitter/facebook/linkedin**.*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

1		2						5
					1			
			5	9	6			8
	9	1		6		7		
		4				6		
		6		5		2	8	
9			2	7	8			
			4					
7						3		9

Difficulty Level ★★ 2/16

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

9	6	1	3	2	8	4	5	7
5	3	2	4	1	7	8	6	9
4	7	8	6	5	9	3	2	1
8	2	9	5	3	1	6	7	4
1	4	3	7	9	6	5	8	2
7	5	6	8	4	2	9	1	3
2	1	5	9	6	4	7	3	8
3	8	4	2	7	5	1	9	6
6	9	7	1	8	3	2	4	5

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WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the **WONDERWORD.**

THE HUMAN HAND Solution: 10 letters

E	X	E	D	N	I	E	V	I	T	I	S	N	E	S
S	S	T	L	E	L	I	T	C	A	T	H	G	X	Q
L	H	A	E	S	P	S	A	R	G	A	D	N	T	U
I	A	N	E	E	I	N	F	I	V	E	E	I	E	E
A	K	U	H	R	A	N	L	U	L	G	S	N	N	E
N	E	L	W	U	C	L	A	P	A	S	I	O	S	Z
O	Ⓟ	L	A	T	S	I	D	U	E	F	N	K	I	E
I	E	Ⓘ	D	S	E	R	G	N	G	E	N	C	O	S
T	N	H	Ⓡ	E	E	N	D	H	P	N	A	E	N	A
A	I	S	O	Ⓖ	A	E	U	O	A	A	I	B	B	H
N	L	L	N	L	D	K	T	T	I	M	D	R	A	C
I	E	I	N	N	D	H	A	I	R	L	E	S	S	U
P	F	G	A	L	A	I	D	A	R	O	M	E	E	O
U	I	H	S	N	O	D	N	E	T	S	F	I	S	T
S	L	T	H	U	M	B	S	G	N	I	T	I	R	W

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A-Ok, Base, Beckoning, Clap, Crease, Distal, Extension, Fine, Finger, Fist, Five, Fortune, Gestures, Grasp, Grip, Hairless, Handedness, Heel, Holding, Index, Lifeline, Lunate, Median, Mitt, Nails, Open, Pad, Pledge, Radial, Ring, Sensitive, Shake, Sign Language, Slight, Squeeze, Supination, Tactile, Tendons, Thumbs, Touch, Ulnar, Wrist, Writing

Yesterday's Answer: Funds

To purchase **THE COLLECTED WONDERWORD, Volume 35, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42 or 43**, order online at www.WonderWordBooks.com. (Contains 43 puzzles.)

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Bryant leaves an All-Star Game winner as West rolls

TORONTO (AP)—Kobe Bryant exited the All-Star Game for the final time to watch Russell Westbrook and Stephen Curry wrap things up with 3-pointers.

Bryant's gone, and these young guys are good.

Bryant said his All-Star Game goodbye and the next generation of the West's best sent him off a winner, rolling to a record-setting 196-173 victory over the East on Sunday night.

"It was fun," Bryant said. "I had a blast playing with those guys, laughing and joking with them on the bench."

The first All-Star Game outside the U.S. was the highest-scoring ever. Bryant didn't provide much of the offense but many of the memories.

"To see him now, it's like the passing of a generation," West coach Gregg Popovich said. "He's been such an iconic figure for so long, and he passes it on to that other group of young guys that you saw out there tonight."

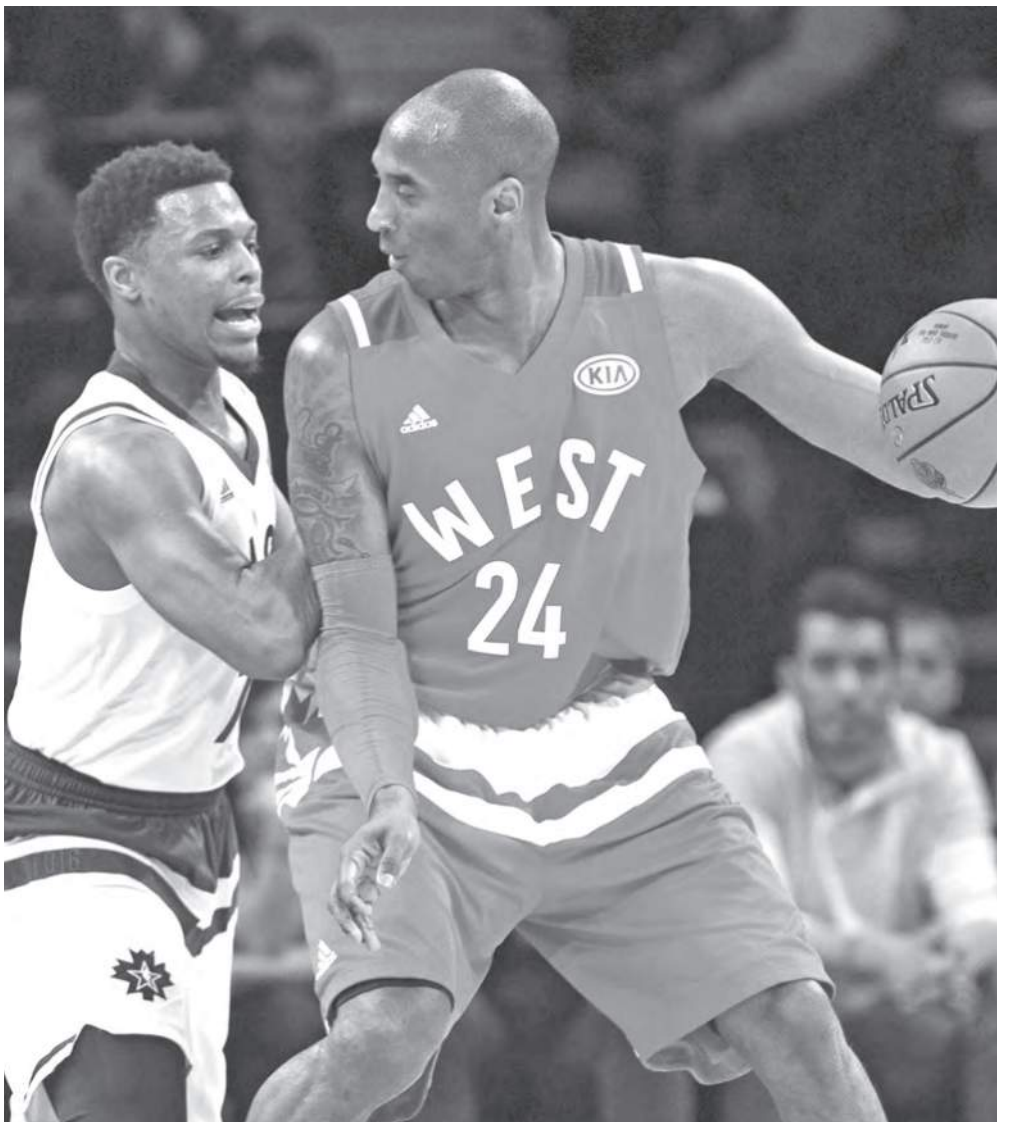
Bryant finished with 10 points, so few that he lost his career lead in All-Star scoring to LeBron James.

But Westbrook scored 31 points in his second straight All-Star MVP performance and Curry added 26 - the final three on a 42-footer. Anthony Davis had 24 on 12-for-13 shooting and Kevin Durant chipped in 23.

Paul George finished with 41 for the East, tying Westbrook's total from last year in New York that was one off Wilt Chamberlain's record. John Wall added 22 points.

James finished with 13 points, just enough to move ahead of Bryant for most ever in the All-Star Game. James has 291, while Bryant, who is retiring after this season, leaves with 290.

He checked out with 1:06 left to cheers and hugs from his fellow All-Stars who now put up points in bunches the way Bryant did for so long.



AP

Western Conference's Kobe Bryant, of the Los Angeles Lakers (24) tries to move the ball past Eastern Conference's Kyle Lowry, of the Toronto Raptors, left, during the first half of the NBA all-star basketball game, Sunday, Feb. 14, 2016 in Toronto.

Bryant had seven assists and six rebounds, but shot 4 for 11 in a game where there isn't really much defense and had never been less. The 369 combined points were 48 more than last year's record, and both clubs blew away the previous individual team record of 163.

But people just wanted to see Bryant play, not necessarily play well.

"We all at one point in our life wanted to be Kobe in our driveways somewhere," the East's Dwyane Wade said. "We watched him growing up and we wanted to pay respect to him."

The pregame was a celebration first of Canada, then of Bryant.

A video message from Dr. James Naismith, the Canadian who invented basketball in the early 1890s, was followed by player introductions by two-time NBA MVP Steve Nash and Grammy winner Drake. Canadian Nelly Furtado sang her country's national anthem.

Then it was time for two video tributes for Bryant, whose 18 All-Star selections are second only to Kareem Abdul-Jabbar. Bryant thanked his millions of fans as the other All-Stars lined up in the background to salute him.

"I know it's been overwhelming for him over this year, but our fans across the world and here in the States and here in Toronto, as well, has just been paying so much respect," James said. "It's all well-deserved."

Toronto hosted the very first NBA game on Nov. 1, 1946. Neither Naismith nor anyone who saw that game would recognize the way it looked Sunday.

Curry and Durant launched shots from spots where only buzzer-beating heaves were once attempted, and Westbrook put together another combination of speed and force that turned it into a rare All-Star blowout in the second half.

The West has won five of the last six even without longtime mainstay Bryant, who hadn't played since 2013 because of injuries. But players like Westbrook, Durant and Curry are more than ready to shoulder the load.

At 37, Bryant has trouble keeping up with the youngsters - especially the real young ones. Chris Paul's son stole the ball from him as Bryant warmed up for the second half.

But he was the star without playing a starring a role. He had said he didn't want players forcing him the ball in an effort to make him the MVP - he's already got four of them in this game—but he was never far from the center of attention.

The West led 92-90 at the break, both teams surpassing the previous record of 89 points in a half.

The game goes back to the U.S. next year, and for the first time since 1997 won't have Bryant. He made his All-Star debut in New York in 1998, a game also remembered for Michael Jordan's last with the Chicago Bulls.

Jordan, now chairman of the Hornets, was on hand Sunday for a ceremonial passing of the All-Star torch from Toronto to Charlotte, the 2017 host.

Paul finished with 14 points and 16 assists and is the leader in All-Star assists per game. DeMar DeRozan scored 18 points for the East and Kyle Lowry had 14 points and 10 assists as both Raptors played well in front of their home crowd.

"I think everybody got the feel of the energy that we witness every single night when we play as Raptors players," DeRozan said. "I think all the guys really got insight on how in tune the city of Toronto and all of Canada is to basketball."

No Hack-a-Shaq rules change this season

TORONTO (AP)—Adam Silver said Saturday no changes are coming to Hack-a-Shaq this season, though he seems to favor some rule adjustment.

And with no consensus within the NBA about what it would entail, the NBA commissioner seems to be taking it upon himself to come up with something.

"So I think it's my job right now to at least formulate an alternative together with the competition committee to ultimately bring to our board of governors," Silver said Saturday night during his annual All-Star press conference.

Silver said the strategy of intentionally fouling poor shooters away from the ball has increased this season, which has caused him to rethink his stance.

"As I said last summer, I said I was personally on the fence as well. I'm beginning to feel that a change needs to be made. And that comes in response to conversations with our network partners. It comes in response to fan data that we look at. We're constantly surveying our fans to get their sense of what they see out on the floor. I'm talking to players and general managers, and our owners of course."

Change would be difficult, because though some coaches say they hate using the strategy, they clearly believe it can be effective. Silver said league data shows it is being used at a 5 1/2 times greater rate than last season.

Mostly used on Shaquille O'Neal when he played, coaches now find Houston's Dwight Howard, Detroit's Andre Drummond and the Clippers' DeAndre Jordan to be targets. And though it slows the game and has drawn more criticism this season as techniques such as jumping on a player's back during a free throw or fouling an inbounds passer have increased, nobody seems to have a good solution.

Silver said a rule change would require approval by 20 of the league's 30 teams.

SIDEBAR

Westbrook wins All-Star MVP award

TORONTO—The NBA All-Star Game rarely features any defensive effort outside of the final few minutes of a close game, but Sunday's contest at the Air Canada Centre in Toronto featured even more offense than usual. The West led most of the way to capture an absurd 196-173 win, but this was one night for which the final score said very little about the quality of play on either side.

Both teams broke the previous single-team scoring record of 163 points (set by the East in 2014 and West as 2015) to shatter the overall scoring record of 321 set just a season ago. All participants scored as much as they could and seemed to have lots of fun in a showcase that only occasionally resembled a regular NBA game.

Naturally, such a high-scoring game featured a number of players with impressive stats. Oklahoma City Thunder guard Russell Westbrook joined St. Louis Hawks legend Bob Pettit (1958 and 1959) as just the second player to capture back-to-back All-Star MVP award with 31 points, eight rebounds, five assists, and five steals. Westbrook looked particularly intent on putting up as many shots as possible (he had a team-high 23 field-goal attempts) and grabbing his second-straight trophy.

However, Indiana Pacers wing Paul George was the high scorer with 41 points (16-of-26 FG), just one point short of the all-time record set by Wilt Chamberlain in 1962. George attempted to get the record a few times in the closing possessions, but Gregg Popovich inserted Draymond Green to lock him down and made sure that Anthony Davis was lying in wait to snuff out any attempts at the rim. He will have to settle for a record nine made three-pointers (on 19 attempts).

Plus, LeBron James set a new record for career All-Star scoring with 291 points. That puts him one point ahead of Kobe Bryant, who scored 10 points in his final All-Star Game. Not that LeBron cared.

There were many more scoring and shooting records. The West put up the most points in a first half (92), the most points in any half (104 in the second, breaking the new record set in the first half), the most three-pointers made (31) and attempted (149), the most field goals made (82) and attempted (149). The East's numbers look minor by comparison, but we're still talking about some of the biggest totals in All-Star history.

MVP favorite Stephen Curry was also very watchable, scoring 26 points on 10-of-18 shooting from the field. He had a few dunks, too, but it's fair to say his performance will be remembered most for this shot from halfcourt on the West's final possession.

Taylor tops Pebble Beach as Mickelson falls

AP
Vaughn Taylor poses with his trophy on the 18th green of the Pebble Beach Golf Links after winning the AT&T Pebble Beach National Pro-Am golf tournament Sunday, Feb. 14, 2016, in Pebble Beach, Calif.

PEBBLE BEACH, Calif. (AP)—Vaughn Taylor doesn't know how he lost his game. Even more mystifying was the way it returned.

His goal Sunday when he teed off in the AT&T Pebble Beach Pro-Am, trailing Phil Mickelson by six shots, was to finish in the top 10 so he wouldn't have to rush down to Los Angeles and try to qualify for the next PGA Tour event.

It had been more than a decade since he won. It had been three years since he had a full PGA Tour card. And just 10 days ago, Taylor was throwing up in his hotel room in Bogota, Colombia, so sick that he withdrew from a Web.com Tour event and flew to Pebble Beach as an alternate. The one-time Ryder Cup player only had a carry bag with him to save money on baggage fees.

Taylor ran off four straight birdies on the back nine at Pebble Beach to close with a 7-under 65, and he wasn't sure it was enough when Mickelson stood over a 5-foot birdie putt to force a playoff. And then Taylor got one last surprise.

Mickelson missed.

"Just absolutely amazing," Taylor said. "Didn't know if it would ever happen again, to be honest. Just lost a lot of confidence, lost a good bit of my game. I just kept working, grinding and kept at it. And I can't believe it actually happened today."

Neither could Mickelson.

Lefty was going for his record-tying fifth victory at Pebble Beach, and the 43rd title of his Hall of Fame career. He had a two-shot lead to start the final round, lost the lead after five holes, rallied with a birdie on the 17th hole and then delivered two good shots to within 60 feet of the hole, just short of the green on the par-5 18th.

"It never crossed my mind that I wouldn't make that one," Mickelson said after his 72.

Taylor had never given up on his career, though he was starting to rule out another victory, and he never imagined returning home to Augusta, Georgia, to play in the Masters. He is the first player this year to qualify by winning.

"Playing in the Masters is my Super Bowl," Taylor said.

Taylor was No. 447 in the world and had never won a tournament against the best players. His previous two victories were the Reno-Tahoe Open (2004 and 2005), which is held opposite a World Golf Championship. He had a scare two years ago when his aluminum fishing boat capsized in a strong current, leading to a few moment of panic with cold water up his chin and a park ranger guiding him to shore.

He finished at 17-under 270 and earned $1.26 million, which is about $165,000 more than he made the last three years combined.

Jonas Blixt, the first player to catch Mickelson, made bogey on the par-5 14th to fall back and closed with four pars for a 69 to finish third. Hiroshi Iwata of Japan, who played with Mickelson in the final group, was one shot behind until he missed the 16th green and made bogey. He closed with a 72 to tie for fourth with Freddie Jacobson (71).

Taylor didn't look like much of a threat when he went out in 34, but he poured it on the back nine. He hit his approach to 3 feet on the 13th and to 12 feet on the dangerous par-5 14th. Coming out of the rough on the 15th, his ball hit the golf ball of Matt Jones and settled 2 feet away for a third straight birdie.

The real blow came at the 16th, a 30-foot birdie putt on one of the toughest greens at Pebble. He rammed it hard enough and watched it break back into the cup, and Taylor ran around the green to celebrate.

"I've had that putt before. It's a hard putt," Taylor said. "I wasn't even thinking about making that putt. I knew it broke a lot, and it's a little uphill at the end. It's really easy to leave that putt short. I just flushed it. It was kind of going in from the start."

He missed two good birdie chances on the last two holes, but still wound up a winner.

Taylor didn't even realize he was in the Pebble Beach Pro-Am - he still has limited status as a past PGA Tour winner—until Monday when he was learned Cal Pettersen had withdrawn. That no longer is a problem. He's in the Masters and PGA Championship, and he gets to set his own schedule for the next two years.

Jordan Spieth, the world's No. 1 player, closed with a 66 and tied for 21st, ending his streak of seven straight top 10s dating to September.

Peyton Manning mentioned in lawsuit filed against Tennessee

KNOXVILLE, Tenn. (AP) -- Denver Broncos quarterback Peyton Manning is mentioned in the lawsuit a group of women filed against the University of Tennessee last week in which they said the school violated Title IX regulations in the way it has handled reports of sexual assaults by student-athletes.

The lawsuit was filed by six unidentified women and focuses on five cases that were reported between 2013 and 2015, but it also references incidents involving Tennessee student-athletes dating to 1995. One paragraph in the 64-page document includes a sexual harassment complaint made by a Tennessee trainer in 1996 involving an incident that occurred in a training room while she was treating Manning.

The trainer, Jamie Ann Naughright, settled in 1997, but sued Manning for defamation in 2002 after he discussed the incident in a book. The lawsuit was settled in 2003.

Manning played for Tennessee from 1994-97.

Naughright's sexual harassment claim involved a 1996 incident in which Manning exposed his buttocks as Jamie Whited, bent over to examine his foot in a training room. Manning said at the time it was a prank intended for another athlete. The Title IX lawsuit says Manning had "sat on her face" while she was assessing the extent of an injury.

The New York Daily News released a 74-page document Saturday that Naughright's lawyers had filed on her behalf in 2003 while the defamation suit was still in litigation.

The federal lawsuit filed Tuesday says Tennessee created a "hostile sexual environment" through a policy of indifference toward assaults by student-athletes. The plaintiffs say Tennessee's policies made students more vulnerable to sexual assault and that the school had a "clearly unreasonable response" after incidents that caused the women making complaints to endure additional harassment. The suit also states the university interfered with the disciplinary process to favor male athletes.

Bill Ramsey, a lawyer representing the school, said in a statement the university "acted lawfully and in good faith" in the situations outlined in the complaint.

Brewers trade Khris Davis to Athletics for 2 prospects

MILWAUKEE (AP)—The Milwaukee Brewers have traded power-hitting outfielder Khris Davis to the Oakland Athletics for a pair of prospects.

Milwaukee acquired catcher Jacob Nottingham and right-handed pitcher Bubba Derby in the deal Saturday. The A's and Brewers each won only 68 games last year.

The 28-year-old Davis hit 27 home runs last season, 10th-most in the National League, and he batted .247 with 66 RBI in 121 games. Davis is not eligible for free agency until after the 2019 season.

Davis has played exclusively in left field during his three seasons in the majors.

The A's have used switch-hitting veteran Coco Crisp and slick-fielding Sam Fuld in left.

The Brewers have acquired several young players since hiring general manager David Stearns last September. Shortstop Jean Segura and reliever Francisco Rodriguez are among the veterans Milwaukee has traded.

Nottingham, who turns 21 in April, hit .316 with 17 home runs and 82 RBI in Class A last year. He was acquired by the A's in midseason for the deal that sent Scott Kazmir to Houston—where Stearns had been assistant GM.

Derby, who turns 22 later this month, was 1-1 with a 1.21 ERA in 14 total games at the rookie and Class A levels.

The A's also designated left-hander Sean Nolin for assignment.

In New York, Yankees pitcher Masahiro Tanaka has gotten through his first mound session since October elbow surgery problem-free.

Tanaka reported no issues Sunday to Yankees pitching coach Larry Rothschild one day after a 20-pitch session at Steinbrenner Field. He had the arthroscopic procedure to remove a bone spur from his right elbow.

"He didn't try to push it too much, but it was good," Rothschild said. "He wasn't mid-season form, but he was where he should be. His arm worked well. Didn't look like there were any problems. Today he felt good, which was more important."

The Yankees say the injury dates from when Tanaka pitched in Japan. He signed with New York before the 2014 season.

Rothschild says Tanaka could have another mound session in a couple days and will "just keep progressing from there."

Barring any setbacks, the Yankees expect the right-hander to be ready for his first scheduled regular-season start.

Tanaka was diagnosed with a partially torn elbow ligament in 2014, when he went 13-5 in 20 starts. He was 12-7 with a 3.51 ERA in 24 starts last year and lost to Houston in the AL wild-card game.

Tanaka was on the disabled list last season with right wrist tendinitis and a forearm strain and missed a September start because of a strained right hamstring.

Arsenal, Spurs grab late winners against EPL title rivals

AP
Arsenal's Danny Welbeck, 2nd left, jumps to head the ball and score his side's second goal during the English Premier League soccer match between Arsenal and Leicester City at the Emirates Stadium in London, Sunday, Feb. 14, 2016.

MANCHESTER, England (AP)—Arsenal and Tottenham grabbed late winning goals against title rivals on Sunday to move two points off the lead as the race to win the English Premier League tightened up.

Leicester started the weekend with an unlikely five-point lead but conceded in the fifth minute of stoppage time to lose 2-1 at Arsenal, with Danny Welbeck scoring the winner in his first match back after 10 months out injured.

"This strengthens our belief that we are in the fight," Arsenal manager Arsene Wenger said. "It would have been massive for us to lose."

It was only Leicester's third loss of the season—and two of them have been inflicted by Arsenal.

Christian Eriksen didn't leave it quite so late for Spurs against Manchester City, slotting home in the 83rd minute to also seal a 2-1 win at Etihad Stadium. It will be regarded as a landmark win for a young Tottenham team that is going for the club's first league title since 1961.

"It is true our supporters can dream," Spurs manager Mauricio Pochettino said.

Second-place Tottenham leads Arsenal on goal difference, while City's second straight home loss kept the team six points behind Leicester, with its squad beginning to look stretched as it goes for trophies on four fronts.

In the other match, last-place Aston Villa slipped to its heaviest home defeat in 81 years, losing 6-0 to Liverpool. The visitors had six different scorers, including Daniel Sturridge in the injury-prone striker's first league start for more than four months.

Relegation candidates all of last season, Leicester is dealing with a different kind of pressure this time round but a failure to handle rising expectations wasn't the reason behind the defeat at Emirates Stadium.

The biggest factor was probably the sending-off of right back Danny Simpson after two yellow cards in the opening nine minutes of the second half. Leicester was then leading 1-0, thanks to Jamie Vardy's penalty on the stroke of halftime -- his league-high 19th goal of the season.

Substitutes came good for Arsenal. Theo Walcott equalized with 20 minutes to go with Arsenal's first shot on target and fellow sub Welbeck, who came on in the 83rd minute, headed in Mesut Ozil's free kick.

"Everybody is extremely happy for him, because he has been out for 10 months -- that is an eternity for a player," Wenger said.

Spurs capped a successful day for the north London clubs by completing a league double over City, another sign that they are ready to finally challenge for the championship under Pochettino after years of underachievement.

Harry Kane put Tottenham in front in the 53rd from a penalty that was controversially awarded for a handball against Raheem Sterling, who turned his back to a cross from Danny Rose. The ball appeared to strike a combination of his elbow and back, with his arm with his arm not outstretched.

Substitute Kelechi Iheanacho equalized in the 74th, only for Eriksen to race onto Erik Lamela's through-ball and slip a low finish past goalkeeper Joe Hart.

With 12 games left, City is now dependent on three teams above it dropping points.

"The first problem is our team," City manager Manuel Pellegrini said. "We need to improve in a lot of things."

It is the first time since 1985 that Tottenham has been second at this stage of the season.

After Sturridge and James Milner secured a 2-0 lead at halftime, Liverpool scored four goals in 13 second-half minutes—through Emre Can, Divock Origi, Nathaniel Clyne and Kolo Toure—to seal its biggest win under Juergen Klopp.

Liverpool climbed to eighth place, three points behind fifth-place Manchester United, while Villa is eight points from safety.

In Birmingham, Liverpool scored four goals in 13 second-half minutes to complete a 6-0 win at last-place Aston Villa in the Premier League on Sunday for the team's biggest victory under manager Juergen Klopp.

Making his first league start in four months, striker Daniel Sturridge sparked the rout with the opening goal after 16 minutes before James Milner's curling free kick from the left wing eluded everyone and bounced into the far corner in the 25th.

Emre Can, Divock Origi, Nathaniel Clyne and Kolo Toure scored in quick succession from the 58th minute in another embarrassing result for Villa, which is eight points from safety. It was Villa's heaviest home defeat in 81 years.

Liverpool climbed to eighth place, three points behind fifth-place Manchester United.

Villa came into the game in its best form of the season, having lost only once in its last five games. But dreadful defending saw the hosts slip 2-0 down early on and it just got worse against a Liverpool team that looked more threatening with Sturridge leading the line.

The England striker hadn't started a league game since the Merseyside derby on Oct. 4—or even appeared in the league since Dec 6—because of a string of injury problems, but he showed typical opportunism to head home unmarked from Philippe Coutinho's curling cross.

Can drilled in a low shot from just outside the area to set off a run of goals as Villa's defense fell apart. Seconds after replacing Sturridge, Origi ran onto Coutinho's through-ball and scuffed a shot into the net in the 63rd, Clyne tapped in after his initial shot was saved in the 65th and Koure headed in unmarked from a corner in the 71st.

CAROL

From Page 28

last Saturday, 6-3, 6-4.

In the boys U14 singles, Woo asserted his might over Seung Jin Paik with a 6-3, 6-2 triumph in their title match. The two finalists also collided in the finals of the Tan Holdings tournament—the first event Northern Mariana Islands Tennis Association had for the 2015-2016 season.

Steele duplicated Woo's straight set win as the former cruised past Daniel Kang, 6-1, 6-3, in the boys U12 finale.

In the girls division, Heras and Raulerson also took the short route to the Promised Land after sweeping their respective opponents. Heras downed Tania Tan, 6-3, 6-0, in their U16 title game, while Raulerson dominated Coume Kaga, 6-0, 6-2, in the U14.

Meanwhile, results in the round-robin girls and boys U10 singles and girls U12 singles, and the mixed-up doubles will be reported in *Saipan Tribune's* Tuesday edition.

AGAPE

From Page 28

Chen was again at the forefront of the Torchbearers' offense, firing 21 points. Cai was also there to back up Chen, as the former broke into double figures with 10 points.

Alll 10 players of coach Noel Puno made it to Agape's box score to whip SDA, which draw points from only four players.

SDA was scoreless in the first period, allowing Agape to pull away, 17-0. Chen was unstoppable on offense early on, logging 13 points, while Xu and Cai combined for the 4 other markers.

Meanwhile, Agape's two other victories in the double-round robin elimination came from Saipan Community School and Mt. Carmel School.

Agape earned its closest win so far in the league against SCS with the former notching a 31-23 win last Feb. 2. As expected Chen starred in the win, drilling 18 points.

Chen then exploded for 34 points against Mt. Carmel last Feb. 4 to power Agape to a 54-41 victory.

Chen and company will put their immaculate record on the line today when they take on defending champion Saipan International School.

KANOA

From Page 28

ute, while Chung added one more goal three minutes later. Miyawaki made it a 7-1 lead with his fourth goal in the 36th minute, while Basnet lit up the board in the 45th before the former closed out the one-sided match with back-to-back goals (51st and 56th minute).

In the other co-ed U12A game, Brian Lubao hit the go-ahead goal for Kanoa midway in the second half to hand his team a close victory. Joe Emil Antonio nailed the other goal for Kanoa, while Jomary Pulido recorded the only goal for Tan Holdings.

BOYS U14
Matansa 11, Shirley's 1

Over at the Koblerville Elementayr School Field, Matansa had a rousing start against Shirley's FC.

The trio of Iverson Santos, Justin Charles Achas, and Joshua Mailig teamed up in giving Matansa a lopsided victory in the first game in the division. Achas and Santos earned four goals apiece, while Mailig chipped in three.

Brandon Tenorio was the only scorer for Shirley's.

Kanoa 5, Tan Holdings 4

In the second game, Kanoa pulled off a come-from-behind win opposite Tan Holdings.

Kanoa faced a 1-4 deficit at the break before bouncing back in the second half to steal the win from Tan Holdings.

Sebastian Manabat nailed the winning goal in the 68th minute, while two of Kanoa's three other goals in the second half came from Ian Maniago. Maniago also registered the team's only goal in the first half, while Jaydee Jose hit the other goal in the final frame.

Mark Esalan had a brace for Tan Holdings, while Joshua Waldo and John Michael Rojas scored the two other goals in the first half.

MP United 9, Paire 4

In the last match in the division, MP United outclassed Paire.

Rei Sekiguchi led MP United's first win, as he fired four goals, including three straight in the second half. Miyawaki and Cho added two apiece, while Eun Syu Hahn nailed the team's first goal.

Kaden Church had a hat-trick for Paire, while the team's other goal was courtesy of Blake Mister.

2015 SACAN Basketball League Finals

PHOTOS By ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Pacific Islands Club's Sean Rabasto, left, pulls the trigger against the defense of Blue Haus Ali'i's' Raymond Velasco, center, and Angelo Fernando during the second quarter of their title game in the 2015 San Antonio Community Action Network Basketball League last Saturday night at the San Antonio court. Blue Haus won, 57-49.

Blue Haus Ali'i's' Raymond Velasco, right, beats Pacific Islands Club's Darwin Barbo, center, to the ball, while the former's teammate Angelo Fernando stays in the play.

Pacific Islands Club's Raymark Castro goes up for an acrobatic shot on a fastbreak play.

Blue Haus Ali'i's' Bruce Berline, left, and Bart Demapan, right, go over the back of Pacific Islands Club teammates James Abuy, second left, and Darwin Barbo to get the rebound.

Pacific Islands Club's Darwin Barbo unloads an unchallenged shot.

Pacific Islands Club's Jack Aranda drives against Blue Haus Ali'i's' Angelo Fernando, left, and Elmer Esdrelon.

Pacific Islands Club's Emerson Feria, center, challenges the defense of Blue Haus Ali'i's Marlon De Dios, left, and Bart Demapan.

Blue Haus Ali'i's Elmer Esdrelon is fouled by Pacific Islands Club's Donovan Galloway, right.

Blue Haus Ali'i's Marlon De Dios is airborne for a reverse layup.

Bryant leaves an All-Star Game winner as West rolls

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Sports

Taylor tops Pebble Beach as Mickelson falls

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Lee stands out, beats Cruz

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

CNMI junior player Carol Lee capped her outstanding showing in the men's Open singles field of the 2016 White Coconut Tennis Classic with a 6-1, 6-3 finals win against Micronesian Games veteran Bobby Cruz yesterday at the Pacific Islands Club court.

Lee was the lone female entry in the division and ended up unbeaten in the eight-player draw to rule the most competitive singles event in the annual tournament. Before pulling off an upset in the title match against the top-ranked Cruz, Lee came from a 7-5, 1-5 (retired) victory against Moris Villanueva in their semis showdown last Sunday.

Villanueva was forced to call it a day despite leading in the second set due to cramps. He made it to the semifinals following a 6-3, 6-2 triumph over Colin Ramsey, while Lee advanced after slipping past Vincent Tudela, 5-7, 6-1, 10-2. Cruz, on the other hand, earned a finals seat after eliminating Robbie Schorr, 6-3, 6-0, and Peter Loken, 4-6, 6-3, 10-7. Loken set up a semis tiff against Cruz after a 6-4, 6-0 victory over Ken Song.

Meanwhile, five other singles title matches were also played yesterday with Isabel Heras, Asia Raulerson, Ji Min Woo, Richard Steele, and Villanueva winning them.

Villanueva topped the boys U16 singles after foiling Schorr's upset bid, 6-1, 6-4. The eventual division champion took the second finals berth following a 6-3, 6-2 win against Michael Ren last Sunday, 6-4, 6-4, while Schorr made it to the title match first after ousting Colin Ramsey

See CAROL on Page 26

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Carol Lee, seen here serving in her and Ericka Tuttle's mixed-up doubles game against Asia Raulerson and Moris Villanueva in the 2016 White Coconut Tennis Classic yesterday at the Pacific Islands Club courts, beat Bobby Cruz in the men's Open singles finals, 6-1, 6-3.

Kanoa, MPU win season debuts

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Kanoa FC"s Daniel Mar Pablo, left, tries to kick the ball away from a Tan Holdings FC player during the second half of their co-ed U12A division game in the NMIFA youth league last Saturday at the Hopwood Junior High School Field.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Kanoa Football Club and MP United FC recorded contrasting victories in the co-ed U12A division during the opening week of the 2016 NMIFA Youth Spring League last Saturday at the Hopwood Junior High School Field.

Kanoa nipped Tan Holdings FC, 2-1, while MP United routed Paire FC, 10-1.

Rintaro Miyawaki starred in MP United's demolition of Paire FC, as he knocked in six goals in the season-opening game. Jeremiah Diaz, Dylan Kim, Andrew Chung, and Rohan Basnet contributed one goal each.

MP United hit the board early off Diaz's shot in the second minute, while Miyawaki got his hat-trick in succession after scoring in the 10th, 12th, and 14th to lift MP United to a 4-1 lead at the end of the first half. Max Church tallied the lone goal for Paire, as he found the back of the net in the 13th minute.

MP United then continued its domination of Paire in the second half with Kim opening up the scoring for the team in the 32nd min-

See KANOA on Page 26

Agape keeps perfect slate

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Agape Christian School is still undefeated in the middle school division of the 2015-2016 Coalition of Private School Sports Association Basketball League as it bagged two more wins last week.

The Torchbearers posted their most recent victory against Grace Christian Academy, 42-18, at the ACS court in Middle Road last Thursday, while the other win was versus Seventh Day Adventist, 59-11, last Feb. 9 also at Agape's home turf.

Against GCA, Haoyu Chen and Dawei Cai teamed up in lifting Agape to the 24-point victory after scoring 14 and 10 points, respectively. It was the Torchbearers second win in as many games opposite the Eagles as the former also routed the latter during the league's opening game, 37-12.

In their second outing, Chen dropped 10 of his total points in the first quarter to help Agape establish an early double-digit lead, 16-6. Cui contributed 4, while Tychicus Xu added 2 in the opening period for Agape.

The Eagles got 4 points from Eun Syu Hahn and 2 from Eun Ho Si and though other players hit the board in the next two quarters, GCA failed to score in the final canto to bow to Agape anew.

In the Agape-SDA match

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CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Agape Christian School coach Noel Puno huddles with his players during a break in their game against Grace Christian Academy in the middle school division of the COPSSA caging last week at the Agape court in Middle Road.